Thursday
1st April, 1954

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I- Questions and Answers)

VOLUME I, 1954

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PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

Acc. No. 25275
Dated 01.12.201

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, the 1st April, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

*1487. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state the number of Indian scholars selected under the two schemes of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, for scholarships in Commonwealth Centres for the year 1953?

(b) To which countries were these scholars assigned for studies?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Ten.

(b) One to Canada and nine to the United Kingdom.

Shri Bahadur Singh: What is the procedure adopted for the selection of these scholarships?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is a Selection Board under the chairmanship of the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research. The other members are the representatives of the Assam Oil Company, the Burma Oil Company, and Government. They select these scholarships.

Shri Bahadur Singh: Does the Government of India bear the cost of these scholarships in full or is any portion of them borne by the scholars themselves? What is the total amount of the scholarships?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: These are scholarships donated by the Burma Oil Company and the Assam Oil Company.

Shri T. S. A. Chettair: Are these scholarships given only for subjects for which facilities do not exist in India; and if so, what are the subjects?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The subjects for which the last batch of students was sent included engineering designs, construction, highway engineering, agricultural engineering, aviation engineering etc. Regarding the other part of the question, students are sent abroad only for subjects for which facilities are not available in our country.

Shri P. C. Bose: What is the minimum qualification for selection?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got the details, but the minimum qualification is graduateship in science subjects.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Are these scholars given a guarantee of employment after they return?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This is the second batch which has gone. The first batch has not yet returned so where is the question of employment just now?

Shri Bahadur Singh: What are the special facilities given to them by the countries to which they have been assigned?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The Commonwealth countries have invited these scholars on the suggestion of the

Burma Oil Company and the Assam Oil Company. Presumably, they give all the facilities that are desirable.

Shri Muniswamy: In making a selection of candidates for these scholarships, is any State-wise consideration given, or is selection made only on merits?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Only on merits.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it one of the terms of awarding this scholarship that if a scholar successfully completes the course he will be given employment?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: He is putting the same question again.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The hon. Deputy Minister has not given a reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there a guarantee of appointment after they return?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The Government of India will try their level best to give them employment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why not be clear? Whatever doubts hon. Members have must be cleared. If there is a guarantee of employment given by the Government, say there is a guarantee; if there is no such guarantee, say there is no guarantee clearly.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have stated that the Government try to give them employment to their very best.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He does not appreciate the position. Is there a guarantee of employment?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No. There is no guarantee of employment.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Has any of the foreign countries agreed to offer facilities to Indian students for atomic research?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That has nothing to do with this question.

INCOME-TAX INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

*1488. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the term of the Income-tax Investigation Commission has further been extended beyond 31st December, 1953;

(b) the number of cases disposed of by the Commission during 1953; and

(c) the number pending on 31st January, 1954?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir. The notification was placed on the Table of the House on 14th December 1953 as required under Section 4(3) of the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act.

(b) the number is 168.

(c) the number is 636.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it proposed to entrust any other cases to the Commission or shall they have to finish whatever is left with them?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: If any other cases come to light during the tenure of the Commission, they may be taken up by it.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the total amount of disclosures voluntarily made up to this time?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The total amount of concealment reported is Rs. 45,97,04,500.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wanted to know the amount of voluntary disclosures so far.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: On a voluntary basis, the amount of disclosures is Rs. 40,32,92,229.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Does this include disclosures of hidden incomes which were made voluntarily after the duration had expired in the ordinary course of assessment proceedings?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No, Sir.

Shri L. N. Mishra: I wish to know whether collection is made by instalments, and, if so, the amount that is still to be collected.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The collection is made by instalments. The amount so far realised is Rs. 9·22 crores and the amount due is Rs. 18·29 crores.

कानूनी सहायता सम्बन्धी विधान

*१४८९. सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री २१ फरवरी, १९५२ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १४६ के उत्तर को ध्यान में रख कर यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इंगलैंड के कानूनी सहायता व परामर्श अधिनियम, १९४९ (लीगल एड एन्ड एडवाइस एक्ट, १९४९) के समान कोई विधान भारत में बनाने की प्रस्थापना के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): When question No. 146 was answered in Parliament on the 21st February 1952, a Member made the suggestion that since more representative Governments were about to be established in the States after the General Elections, the proposals for providing legal aid to indigent persons and persons of limited means at Government expense should be re-circulated to such Governments. The Government promised to do so and in pursuance of that promise, the State Governments were again addressed in the matter. Replies have been received from all the State Governments except Orissa and Mysore. The question of providing free legal aid to indigent persons and persons of limited means is one primarily for the State Governments, who would have to bear the cost. Almost all the State Governments from whom replies have so far been received, have expressed their inability to bear the cost of any such scheme.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether Government is aware of any private agencies doing this work in any of the States?

Shri Datar: Government are not aware.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Ministry is aware that in Madras, legal aid is being given to Scheduled Castes, and whether in any other State the same thing is being done?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of what my hon. friend has just told us. So far as the Government are concerned, they are not aware of any private agencies in this respect.

British Investments in Textile Industry

*1490. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment of British Nationals in textile mills in India as on the 15th August 1947;

(b) their present investment in this regard ; and

(c) whether there have been fresh investments by people of that nationality during these years?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Information as on the 15th August, 1947 is not available, but according to the Census that was carried out by the Reserve Bank of India as on 30th June, 1948, the investments by residents of U.K. in the cotton textile industry in India amounted to Rs. 9·26 crores. Information for a later period is not available but the Reserve Bank is shortly undertaking another survey of foreign investments which, when completed, will give the information as on the 31st December, 1953.

(c) During July, 1948, to October, 1953, remittances to the extent of Rs. 33·56 lakhs were received from residents of U.K. for investment in the cotton textile industry.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government is aware of any amount being released from investment in textile mills by British nationals, and, if so whether the amount so

released has been absorbed in another industry or has been repatriated?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The amount released from what?

Shri S. N. Das: The amount released or withdrawn from the textile mills.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: During this period, the capital repatriation amounted to Rs. 53·41 lakhs from the textile industry.

TRIBAL FOOD MICROBIOLOGY

*1491. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations have been carried on tribal food microbiology;

(b) if so, the names of places where such dietary surveys were made; and

(c) the food found to be common to all tribals and its contents?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):

(a) Yes.

(b) Abor Hills, Assam and Travancore Hills.

(c) Rice is the common food taken by the tribes in Abor Hills and Travancore Hills. I may add that there is another very striking similarity between these two groups of tribals regarding food; neither the tribals in Assam in Abor Hills nor the tribals in Travancore take milk.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the agency that carries out these investigations and how are they financed?

Dr. M. M. Das: These investigations are carried out as part of the normal duties of our Anthropological Department and the money for the expenditure comes from the Budget grants given to the department.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any attempt has been made to find the cause of goitre prevalent among the tribals in Abor Hills, and whether any remedial measures have been carried out?

Dr. M. M. Das: Investigation is going on about this abnormal frequency of goitre among certain tribal people in the Abor Hills and the food soil, vegitables and other local beverages prepared by the people have been taken for examination and the investigation is still going on.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE

*1492. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two sub-committees set up by the Planning Committee of the All-India Council for Technical Education in December 1953 to prepare a plan for the proposed Administrative Staff College and the National Institute of Management of India have started their work; and

(b) what is the estimated non-recurring and recurring expenditure in connection with the establishment of the College and the Institute?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes.

(b) Estimates of cost are still being worked out by the sub-committees.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस इंस्टीट्यूट और कालेज के क्या मक़ासिद और उद्देश्य हैं ?

Dr. M. M. Das: So far as the Administrative Staff Colleg is concerned, its main purpose is to bring together men and women of executive responsibility from industry, commerce, trade unions and the Central and State Governments to study the common principles that underlie effective administration. So far as the National Institute of Management is concerned, the main aim is to raise the standards of management throughout the country and to this end, among other things, it will undertake research and propa-

ganda. It will help to create for industry and commerce a continuous supply of good managers and will stimulate a lively appreciation of the importance of effective management of all levels by all concerned.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : इस बात को मद्देनजर रखते हुए कि इस मुल्क में सरकारी और गैर सरकारी उद्योग और धन्धे इस जमाने में काफी उन्नति कर रहे हैं, सरकार इस बारे में क्या इन्तजाम कर रही है कि ऐसे उद्योग धन्धों के प्रबन्ध की शिक्षा के सम्बन्ध में जल्दी इन्तजाम किया जाय ?

ملسٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ نیچرل ریسورسز اینڈ سائنٹیفک ریسرچ (مولانا آزاد) : یہ سکیم اسلئے چلائی گئی ہے -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: That is why this scheme has been started.]

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that this college is going to be on the model of the college in the United Kingdom?

Dr. M. M. Das: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it has come to the notice of the Government that the Productivity Study Committee of the I.L.O. has passed strictures on the management of industries in India; if so whether the Government would consider starting this institution very quickly?

Dr. M. M. Das: Government wants to start it very quickly. A Committee has been appointed under the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, so that this college may come into existence without further delay.

Shri N. M. Lingam: The All-India Council for Technical Education has set up a Joint Committee of the All-India Board of Technical Studies to prepare a plan for the organisation and development of the management studies and Administrative Staff College.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is it? The hon. Member is giving the information.

Shri N. M. Lingam: The question comes last. The Joint Committee set up a Planning Committee. The Planning Committee has in its turn appointed two sub-committees. May I know how long will this process of setting up committees go on and if there is any finality about it?

Dr. M. M. Das: Only three months; within three months they will finish their deliberations.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether this college will be affiliated to any University?

Dr. M. M. Das: No; they will be an altogether different institution.

REFUGEES OF FOREIGN NATIONALITIES

*1493. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any record is kept of refugees of foreign nationalities who are in India; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a new form of travel document is proposed to be introduced for them?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Except that they are registered as "Stateless Persons" no separate record of foreign refugees as such is maintained. The number of persons registered as Stateless on the 31st December 1953 is 232.

(b) No.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know in what States they have been settled?

Shri Datar: In different parts of India.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : यह लोग कौन-कौन से स्थान से आए हैं ? ये रिफ्यूजी लोग किन-किन देशों के हैं ?

Shri Datar: They are from different countries, and the larger number amongst them are from Czechoslovakia, Iraq and Russia.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether they are political or social refugees?

Shri Datar: They are political refugees.

Shri G. P. Sinha: In view of the over-population in the country will Government consider the proposal of putting an embargo over further migration of refugees into this country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion.

Shri Datar: Their number is only 232.

RESERVE BANK BRANCH IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*1496. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branch of the Reserve Bank of India, opened at Trivandrum, will function as an agent of the Central Government for the collection of all dues to the Central Government from the Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) the rate of commission, if any, on such collections?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has opened only a branch of its Department of Banking Operations at Trivandrum. The main function of this branch is to facilitate the administration of the Banking Companies Act, 1949, in relation to the banks incorporated in the Travancore-Cochin State and the inspection of a few more banks in the adjoining areas. It does not perform any of the functions of a branch of the Banking or Issue Department of the Reserve Bank. It does not, therefore, conduct cash work on behalf of the Central Government or the Government of Travancore-Cochin.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the present arrangement for the collection of Central Government dues?

Shri A. C. Guha: That is done by the Travancore-Cochin State Treasury.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What was the commission paid to the Imperial Bank of India before the Federal Financial Integration?

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, only a few days ago the hon. Member had a question just on that subject, and there I stated that the Imperial Bank's commission is not calculated on the basis of any particular area and that it is on a sliding scale according to the total money handled by the Imperial Bank throughout India. So it is not possible for me to give any particular figure for that area.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Do Government expect in the near future that the Reserve Bank organisation which is functioning at Trivandrum will also handle cash which is due to the Government of India and relieve the State Treasury of the extra work?

Shri A. C. Guha: That question can be considered only some time in 1955.

INDIAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS IN KOREA

*1497. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of soldiers and officers sent to Korea;

(b) whether there has been any loss of life amongst them; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) The total number of service officers and other ranks sent to Korea was as follows:

	Officers	JCOs.	ORs.	Total
H. Q., NNRC	45	10	166	221
Custodian Force.	163	193	5,235	5,591

(b) Yes; the following six ORs. lost their lives:

1. ME-121700 Sepoy/Driver Platoo.
2. Lance Naik Sateh Singh Chauhan.
3. Rifleman Kalyan Singh Rawat.
4. Rifleman Kundan Singh Rawat.
5. Lance Naik Dharu Shinde.
6. Sepoy Raghunath.

(c) On 17th September 1953 Sepoy/Driver Platoo while he was moving about in the Custodian Force Camp area, stepped on an unexploded mine which had lain buried in this area and had not been discovered. As a result of the explosion he received multiple injuries and died. On the 18th September 1953 Lance Naik Sateh Singh Chauhan, Rifleman Kalyan Singh Rawat and Rifleman Kundan Singh Rawat were swept away from the deck of the steamship *'Jalagopal'* by sudden waves which gushed inside the fore-deck of the ship, and lost their lives. Lance/Naik Dharu Shinde shot himself accidentally on 15th December 1953 with his own rifle when he slipped while stepping down from his sentry box into the ditch in front of him. On 12th January 1954 Sepoy Raghunath while he was rushing for assistance of the sentry on patrol duty also slipped and his loaded rifle went off the shot hitting him in the chest as a result of which he died.

A court of enquiry was held in each case. No one was found to blame for these unfortunate accidents; they were all acts of Providence.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Government of India on these soldiers?

Shri Tyagi: I want notice for this question.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether there had been any deterioration in the general health of the soldiers while they were in Korea?

Shri Tyagi: No, Sir.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The health of the soldiers of the Custodian Force in Korea was extraordinarily good, better than of any other Force in Korea. There has been some very serious disease prevalent there—I am not able to figure the name of it—and not one of them got it. In fact, the Commanders of the other Forces were surprised at the extraordinary good health of our soldiers.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know whether any additional pay or allowance, or both, were paid to the soldiers and officers who were sent to Korea, and if so, what was that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not relevant to this question.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, who pays the expenditure of these Forces that have been stationed in Korea—our Government or the U.N.O.?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The scope of this question is only the total number and the loss of life.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have already stated before the House some time back that when this Force was being sent, the general understanding was that we should continue to meet our normal expenditure, and that any special expenditure would be borne by the other parties concerned. As it was, much of the expenditure was borne by the parties with regard to logistic supplies and others, and we are still under correspondence with the Secretary-General of the United Nations about settling these maters.

Research in Use of Solar Energy

*1498. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to encourage research on the utilisation of energy from solar rays for industrial and domestic purposes?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Research on several

alternative methods for utilization of energy from solar rays in the cheapest possible way for industrial and domestic purposes is being carried out at the National Physical Laboratory.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know what progress has been made in the matter of this research for using the solar rays for purposes of both power and refrigeration?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: A little amount of patience has to be exercised by the hon. Member to know the exact progress made. The progress so far made seems quite satisfactory. We have now been working to establish a process by which we can harness the solar energy for cooling water and also for heating purposes.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know how far the utilisation of this energy has proved fruitful and economical?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Unfortunately, the various methods which are available for utilising solar energy, for instance, thermo-electric and photo-electric, have proved costly and the result is not commensurate with the cost involved. The only method which is now used is to use large paraboidal mirrors for concentrating Sun's energy at a point which can be used either for converting it into power or heat.

ANCIENT SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS

*1499. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 599 asked on the 18th August, 1953 and state:

(a) what further steps Government have taken to secure the Sanskrit manuscripts in European countries particularly in the United Kingdom; and

(b) whether any agreement has been reached with the Pakistan Government on bringing back the manuscripts in the library of the former India Office?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know the total number of Sanskrit manuscripts in the former India Office?

Dr. M. M. Das: The total number of Sanskrit manuscripts including Pali in the India Office Library is 8300.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the Government of the United Kingdom has been approached in this matter?

Dr. M. M. Das: These questions are coming before the House again and again. On the 2nd March, in reply to a similar question by Dr. N. B. Khare, the hon. Prime Minister said: —

> "It is not a particularly easy matter to get back things of artistic value, articles of historical or archaelogical interest which private collectors or a Government has taken in the past, because the country that possesses them also values them very greatly. There is no means of forcing them to give them back unless it be through a friendly course or by exchange. That is the only way to deal with it."

Under the present circumstances, I am afraid I can give no more information than what has been given by the hon. Prime Minister.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What the Parliamentary Secretary has said has no relation to this question. This question refers to what further steps Government have taken to secure the Sanskrit manuscripts in European countries particularly in the United Kingdom.

Dr. M. M. Das: The question is the same. The former question was about articles of historical interest and archaelogical interest. There also the question of Sanskrit manuscripts came.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if, pending restoration to us of these manuscripts and art treasures,—if we can get them back,—it is in the contemplation of the Government to secure immediately an inventory of these manuscripts and art treasures in the United Kingdom and other foreign countries.

ملسٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ نیچرل ریسورسز اینڈ سائنٹیفک ریسرچ (مولانا آزاد) : ہاں گورنمنٹ کے سامنے یہ بات آئی ہے اور ضروری کارروائی کی جا رہی ہے -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** Yes, this matter has come up before the Government, and necessary action is being taken.]

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any negotiations have been carried out to get the manuscripts to be transcribed and get copies of the same?

مولانا آزاد : ان تمام طریقوں سے کام لیا جا رہا ہے - لیکن میں ہاؤس کی معلومات کے لئے یہ چیز کہہ دوں کہ یہ اتنی آسان بات نہیں ہے کہ بہت جلد اس کا ریزلٹ نکل آئے - سب سے پہلے ہم نے یہ کوشش کی کہ یورپ کے مختلف شہروں میں گورنمنٹ کے پاس یا پرائیویٹ ایجنسیوں کی جس قدر یہ چیزیں ہیں ان کی ایک لسٹ بن جائے اور ہم نے اپنی ایمبیسی کو لکھا - ان کے ذریعہ سے کچھ چیزیں آئیں مگر وہ ابھی تک کافی نہیں ہیں - کام جاری ہے اور کوشش کی جا رہی ہے کہ اس کی ایک لسٹ پوری بن جائے اور اس کے بعد جو ہم اٹھانا چاہتے ہیں وہ اٹھائیں -

[**Maulana Azad:** All such means are being explored; but, for the information of the House, I may add that it is not an easy matter in which quick results can be achieved. First of all we tried to form a list of all articles lying with different Governments or private agencies in Europe. We wrote to our Ambassadors and some things have been received through them, but they are not sufficient. Efforts are being continued to have a complete list of these articles and then we can secure as many of them as we want.]

डा० सुरेश चन्द्र : क्या गवर्नमेंट के सामने ऐसे वाक़यात पेश आये हैं कि जिनमें इंडिया आफ़िस लाइब्रेरी में वे किताबें जो कि हिन्दुस्तान की आज़ादी से ताल्लुक रखती हैं उनमें हिन्दुस्तानी विद्यार्थियों को और दूसरे लोगों को जाने की इजाजत नहीं मिली है या कुछ किताबें उनसे छिपा कर रक्खी गयी हैं ?

مولانا آزاد : گورنمنٹ کے علم میں کوئی ایسا واقعہ نہیں آیا -

[**Maulana Azad:** No such instance has come to the notice of Government.]

SCHOOL OF ASIAN LANGUAGES

*1500. **Shri Lakshmayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state whether Government have sanctioned Rupees one lakh to the Banaras Hindu University to establish a school of Asian languages?

(b) If so, when will it be started and what languages will be taught there?

(c) What is the programme of the courses in this institute?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) An advance grant of Rupees one lakh has been made by the University Grants Commission to the Banaras Hindu University for this purpose.

(b) and (c). The details of the Scheme are under examination by the University Grants Commission.

Shri Lakshmayya: May I know how many languages are being classified as Asian languages?

Dr. M. M. Das: The Banaras Hindu University proposes to provide facilities for the teaching of the following languages under this scheme: Tibetan, Chinese, Burmese, Siamese and Sinhalese.

SCHEDULED CASTE SCHOLARSHIPS

*1501. **Shri Katham:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) how many students of the Scheduled Tribes of West Bengal were granted Scholarships under the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes Scholarships Board for 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) how many Scholarships of 1952-53 were renewed in 1953-54?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 18.]

Shri Katham: What was the total amount of money that was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes?

Dr. M. M. Das: I am afraid I cannot give the exact amount of money, but for the satisfaction of my friend, I may say that 18 per cent of the total amount granted was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Thimmaiah: Are Government aware that these scholarships are being usually awarded after the academic year is over or just at the end of the examination?

Dr. M. M. Das: Government is aware of the fact, and they are making their best attempts to improve matters.

Shri N. M. Lingam: In view of the comparatively poor intellectual attainments of pupils belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, is it under the contemplation of Government not to stop renewal of scholarships on the ground of failure in examinations?

Dr. M. M. Das: The minimum that has been determined for renewal of these scholarships cannot be made lower.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what amount has lapsed in the current year from the scholarships sanctioned?

Dr. M. M. Das: I am sorry, Sir. I want notice.

Some hon. Members: May I know, Sir...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How many will know at a time?

Shri Thimmaiah: Is it a fact that the late dispersal of scholarships is due to the inadequate number of clerks working in the Scholarship Division Office?

Dr. M. M. Das: No, Sir. Government has no information about that.

Shri Nanadas *rose*—

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will not call Mr. Muniswamy. I will call the other hon. Member.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether any restrictions have been imposed in granting scholarships to the converts from Scheduled Castes this year? If so, what are the reasons for imposing such restrictions?

Dr. M. M. Das: No restriction has been imposed upon the candidates of Scheduled Castes.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that in certain cases deductions have been made after the sanction of scholarships, and if so, what are the reasons?

Dr. M. M. Das: We do not know about individual cases.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Ministry is aware that in the same institution, in the same class, different amounts of scholarships are being granted, and if so, what are the reasons for these invidions distinctions?

Dr. M. M. Das: We are not aware of these invidious distinctions. If the hon. Member has got any case, he may refer that case to us.

Shri Nanadas: My question was not answered.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know whether, in giving scholarships, the Government consider allotment to the different classes of candidates according to the proportion in which applications are received?

Dr. M. M. Das: These amounts of scholarships are fixed on the population of each community in the States, and so far as the three classes—the Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes and backward classes—are concerned, allocation has been made on the basis of 18 per cent. to Scheduled Tribes, 46 per cent. to the Scheduled Castes and 36 per cent. to the backward classes.

Shri Nanadas: My question was not answered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister said that if a person's name is found in a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, notwithstanding conversion he will be given. That is what I understood.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri R. S. Tiwari. Absent.

Shri Sanganna *rose*—

Some hon. Members: Mr. Sanganna is there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If one hon. Member is absent, the other Member must get up immediately and say "I am here".

तीसरी श्रेणी के क्लर्क

*१५०२. **श्री संगण्णा :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या तीसरी श्रेणी के क्लर्कों के वेतन बढ़ाने का निश्चय किया गया है ;

(ख) इसे कब लागू किया जायगा; और

(ग) क्या यह वृद्धि बीते हुए काल से लागू होगी ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The representation received from the III Division Clerks for a revision of their pay scale is under consideration.

(b) and (c). Does not arise at this stage.

Shri Sanganna: What are the demands of the union of clerks and to what extent have they been considered?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The demand is generally for an increase in the pay.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: How long is it since they have been taken into consideration, and how long will it take to come to a conclusion?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The matter is now at the highest level, and I think before long some decision will be arrived at.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact that these clerks have been representing their case for the last five years and as such, would the hon. Minister let us know the time-limit within which some sort of decision is going to be made?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As I said, the matter is already receiving consideration at the highest level, in the Cabinet, and I think before long some decision will be arrived at.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether the proposal covers all departments of the Government of India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The revision is in respect of all third division clerks.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In all departments?

Shri Kasliwal: Who exactly are these third division clerks? Are they attached to the Secretariat or the Ministries or other Departments?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: All who come under a particular pay scale.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the proposal covers only government service called as such or also service in offices like the Supreme Court, the Council of States Secretariat, and the Parliament Secretariat?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It covers the Secretariat and the other Government services.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it apply to the Supreme Court, the Parliament Secretariat etc.....

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) *indicated dissent.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker:...or is it confined only to Government service?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I do not know about the Supreme Court. It may not be applicable to that, but it applies to the Secretariat and the Government services.

PAKISTAN RUPEE

*1503. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a disparity between the official and the market rate of the Pakistan rupee in terms of Indian currency; and

(b) what will be its effect on the transfer of evacuee deposits?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The disparity will not affect the transfer of evacuee deposits, as these are subject to negotiation and settlement on a government to government basis and the official rate of exchange will be applied where necessary.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: What is the estimate of the evacuee deposits of India and Pakistan?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We have no estimate.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: Is it a fact that if the implementation of the provisions of the Act in regard to evacuee deposits is going according to schedule, it is likely that our refugees will lose about thirty per cent. of the value of their deposits, as a result of this disparity?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I think this particular question should be referred to the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation.

Shri Joachim Alva: There is a belief, rightly or wrongly, that as India devalued her rupee without informing Pakistan, Pakistan stuck to her guns, and did not devalue her rupee. Even if it be for historical interest, may I know the reasons why India did not inform Pakistan about devaluing her rupee?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This happened long ago. It is an old story.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It was stated in the reply given earlier that there is disparity between the market price and the official rate of the Pakistan rupee. May I know the quantum of disparity, and whether Government propose to remove the same?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As regards the first part of the question, the rate of exchange in the so-called free market varies from week to week and from place to place. I think the latest rate is seventy-nine Indian rupees to hundred Pakistan rupees. This disparity is due to operation of market forces, not easily amenable to government control.

I.A.F. AIRCRAFT CRASH NEAR AMBALA

*1505. **Shri G. L. Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed near Ambala on the 12th March, 1954: and

(b) the loss sustained by Government due to this crash?

The Minister of Defence Organization (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pilot Officer S. M. Dewan, who was the sole occupant of the aircraft,

was killed and the aircraft was completely destroyed. The total loss to Government cannot be assessed until receipt of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry which has already been convened.

Shri G. L. Chaudhary: May I know whether the aircraft was fully examined before it took off?

Shri Tyagi: Yes, that is always done.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that we know what the aircraft is that has crashed, may we know the reasons why the loss sustained has not been assessed?

Shri Tyagi: I have already stated the reasons. The Court of Inquiry is looking into the reasons, and unless I receive their report, it will not be possible for me to assess the loss.

Shri Suriya Prashad: May I know the number of air crashes in the I.A.F. in the current year?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question refers to the one that took place near Ambala. For this, there must be a separate question.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May we know what relationship the reasons for the air crash have to the loss sustained?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The loss also seems to be one of the items of inquiry. Something has been lost. The question why it has been lost, and the amount of the loss sustained have been referred to the Court of Inquiry. That is what the hon. Minister said.

Shri Tyagi: The loss sustained is the loss of life of a pilot, and the loss of an aircraft.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the type of aircraft that crashed?

Shri Tyagi: It was a Toofani aircraft.

REPORT ON GENERAL ELECTIONS

*1506. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Law** be pleased to state how long it will take for Government to present a report on the last General Elections?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): It is for the Election Commission to prepare and present this report to Government. I understand from the Commission that the volume containing statistical data has been prepared and will soon be sent to the Press for printing. The narrative part of the report which will be in a separate volume is expected to be finished soon, but the Commission is unable to state definitely how long it will take to present the report.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether any summary has been prepared before presentation of the report?

Shri Biswas: The report is not yet ready and the question of summary does not arise at this stage.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि रिपोर्ट में किन-किन विषयों की चर्चा रहेगी ?

Shri Biswas: Will the hon. Member kindly repeat the question?

Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: What are the points discussed in the report?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will await the report.

Shri Biswas: When the report is here, the hon. Member will see for himself.

CIVILIAN BOYS APPRENTICES SCHEME

*1507. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh students were admitted during the year 1953-54 under the Civilian Boys Apprentices Scheme for the training of matriculates in industrial trades in the E.M.E.; and

(b) what are the trades in which this training is being imparted?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No Sir.

(b) Electrician, Engineering Equipment Mechanic, Fitter, Instrument

Mechanic, Machinist, Telecommunication Mechanic, Vehicle Mechanic.

Sardar Hukam Singh: After the training could all these trainees be absorbed in the corps or would they be left to find out jobs for themselves?

Shri Satish Chandra: All the trainees could not be absorbed as there were not enough vacancies. That is why no fresh apprentices are being recruited.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the scheme designed to train more civilians or only this batch will be completed?

Shri Satish Chandra: More of these people will be taken in if there are vacancies and, if we could absorb those already trained. As it is, we are finding it difficult to absorb those already trained.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the whole of the expenditure to be borne by Government or is it shared by the trainees as well?

Shri Satish Chandra: So far they have been trained at the cost of Government.

राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी

*१५०८. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५३ के अन्त में राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी में कितने केडट (छात्र) थे और उन में कितने अनुसूचित जातियों के थे ?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): 1512 cadets were undergoing training at the National Defence Academy, Dehra Dun, on the 1st November 1953. As we do not ask the cadets to indicate their castes, it is not possible to give information regarding the number of cadets who belonged to the Scheduled Castes without making a reference to each cadet individually.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : १९५३ में जितने छात्र वहां पर थे क्या उनकी संख्या १९५२ से अधिक थी, और क्या अब १९५३ के बाद और बढ़ रही है ?

श्री त्यागी : ठीक-ठीक संस्थाओं का ब्यौरा इस वक्त मेरे पास नहीं है। लेकिन मेरा ख्याल यह है कि संख्या पहले से बढ़ रही है।

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether it is the practice that when applications are invited, caste names are included there, and may I know whether Government does not ascertain whether Scheduled Castes are included there or not?

Shri Tyagi: There is such a practice. With a view to receiving less fee from Scheduled Caste candidates who offer to compete, their caste is inquired into, but all those who have applied are not taken. Selection is made on merit and only those who are selected are taken.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Apart from the unwillingness of the Government to find out the caste of the candidates, may I know what steps are being taken to see that all the deserving candidates from Scheduled Castes who apply are given the chance to join?

Shri Tyagi: I am afraid I am not in a position to say what the Public Service Commission could do in this matter. It is a case where candidates apply and are selected on the basis of merit by the UPSC.

श्री धुलेकर : सिलेक्शन के वक्त तो यह नहीं देखा जाता कि यह शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट है या कोई और है, लेकिन मौजूदा हालात में क्या मिनिस्टर महोदय बतला सकते हैं कि कितन कैंडीडेट शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट के हैं ?

श्री त्यागी : मैं ने अर्ज किया कि दफ्तर के अन्दर इस किस्म का कोई रिकार्ड नहीं है। अगर मेम्बर साहब इसको जरूरी समझते हैं तो उसकी इत्तला हासिल की जा सकती है।

Shri N. L. Joshi: May I know how many candidates were refused admission during the year 1953?

Shri Tyagi: I require notice.

Shri Velayudhan: In view of the fact that there are divisions like Mahars and Mahrattas, will Government consider the caste of the Scheduled Castes also and give them a chance in this Academy?

Shri Tyagi: Not in the case of officers. In the case of other ranks, Scheduled Castes are being encouraged, whenever recruitment is made on the basis not of competition but of selection, by Recruiting Officers etc. They have been directed to encourage enrolment of Scheduled Castes.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Am I to understand by this that so far no Scheduled Caste candidates have been taken?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

*1509. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the educational institutions, established under any endowment or trust, which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institutions and the administration of which has been taken over by the Central Government; and

(b) the nature of religious instruction that is imparted in these institutions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

VISIT OF THE FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR

*1510. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state the purpose of the visit of the French Secretary of State for Air, to India?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The French Secretary of State for Air was invited by the Government of India to visit Delhi to discuss the further purchase of French aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether we have any French aircraft in our Air Force and whether they have been considered satisfactory compared to other makes?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We purchased some last year and they are considered very satisfactory.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Has this mission been successful so far as we are concerned?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The new purchase?

Shri Jaipal Singh: The visit of the French Secretary of State for Air. Has his visit been successful as far as we are concerned?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The matter has not been finalised thus far. Yet, it has been successful so far.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether there are any French nationals in our Air Force and, if so, what is their number?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not come across anyone or heard of anyone.

Shri Joachim Alva: Do the French Military planes pass over India on their way to Indo-China for bombing, and did the French Air Secretary ask for permission to pass over India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has nothing to do with this question.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

*1511. **Shri Katham:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state what amount has been asked for by the West Bengal Government under Article 275 of the Constitution for the development of the Scheduled Tribes for 1954-55, and how much has been granted?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The West Bengal Government have not asked for any amount so far. A sum of Rs. 12·50 lakhs has, however, been provisionally allotted to that Government.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the procedure by which this sum will be spent?

Shri Datar: The procedure is that we ask the State Governments to send us schemes under different heads. The schemes are then examined and sanctioned.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether the amount provided for the West Bengal Government for 1953-54 was taken fully by the West Bengal Government?

Shri Datar: Yes, it has been taken.

Shri Barman: Is it only for the coming year, 1954-55, that no sum has been asked for by the West Bengal Government, or is it that the West Bengal Government has not asked for any sum so far?

Shri Datar: The question relates only to 1954-55. In January we issued a circular and asked them to supply us information before the end of February, but still the reply has not been received. The moment it is received, the matter will be considered.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

*1512. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to place on the Table of the House a statement showing Government grants for each State in connection with social education specifying the amounts allotted and actually utilized in 1953-54?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix *VI*, annexure No. 19.]

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : अनुदान की सूची देखने से पता चलता है कि किसी राज्य को अधिक और किसी राज्य को कम अनुदान मिली है । क्या मैं इसका आधार जान सकता हूं ?

Dr. M. M. Das: Allocations were made according to the schemes submitted by the State Governments.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि दिल्ली राज्य के कितने विद्यार्थियों को यह दी गयी है ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have nothing to do with *vidyarthis*.

Dr. M. M. Das: Some of the States did not apply for these grants in time and submit their schemes in time. I am afraid Delhi is one of them.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Apart from the grants sanctioned to State Governments, has the Centre directly sanctioned any scheme for the promotion of social education; and if so,what is that scheme?

منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ نیچرل ریسورسز اینڈ سائنٹیفک ریسرچ (مولانا آزاد) : اس اسکیم کا تعلق تو اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹوں سے ہے - ڈائریکٹ اس سلسلہ میں مدد نہیں دی جاتی -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** This scheme concerns the State Governments. No direct assistance can be given in this connection.]

JAIL REFORMS

*1513. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Reckless's lectures in the training course for jail officers at the Tata Institue of Social Sciences, Bombay, have been compiled by him and handed over to Government; and

(b) whether Dr. Reckless could complete the preparation of the intended handbook containing guiding principles of correctional administration for the use of jail officers?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Yes Dr. Reckless has, however, combined the two in one volume entitled "Handbook of Practical Suggestions for the Treatment of Adult and Juvenile Offenders".

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it proposed to print all those recommendations at Government expense?

Shri Datar: The United Nations Organisation is going to print this book and supply us with certain copies.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Would any caution be exercised in accepting these "Reckless" recommendations?

Shri Datar: They will be duly considered by the State Governments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any kind of pun may be avoided.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Are Government aware that Dr. P. K. Sen, who was a member of the Constituent Assembly, received his doctorate for Indian penology and punishment to victims, and that he had also written two books, *Penology—old and new* and *Some punishment to prisoners*? Have these two books been considered before Dr. Reckless was called in?

Shri Datar: I am not aware whether Government had these two books before them when they called Dr. Reckless here. However, these books will be considered.

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

*1514. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been drawn up or is under the consideration of Government for the development of the Indian Statistical Institue as a focal centre for professional training and research work; and

(b) if so, at what stage is the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) and (b). Government have decided in principle that the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, should be developed as the focal centre for professional training and research in statistics on the same lines as a Higher Technological Institute. The specific manner in which the Institute should thus be developed and the features of its future set-up are still under examination.

30 PSD.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know if any estimate has been made of both the recurring and non-recurring expenditure, and if so, what is the amount?

Shri A. C. Guha: In 1953-54 the budget was Rs. 28,12,000; the budget estimate for 1954-55 is Rs. 30,71,000.

Shri S. N. Das: What would be the training capacity of this Institute when this scheme will come into force?

Shri A. C. Guha: There is one International Statistical Educational Centre and there is also a Research Training School. There are, thus, two training centres. If the hon. Member is eager to know the capacity of the two centres, I want notice for that.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Are Government aware of the opposition to the statistical method propounded by this Institute, and if so, why are Government encouraging it?

Shri A. C. Guha: There may be a difference of opinion almost in every subject. On that score, Government cannot afford to mark time and not to proceed with any one method.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: It is not a question of a difference of opinion. This is a very important question and there are conflicting opinions even among experts. So, why are Government giving this aid when there is so much opposition to Prof. Mahalanobis's method?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Because Government have come to the conclusion that it is a very good method; and in fact, not only by Government but in general it is recognised as such all over the world.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know whether any statistics have been taken of the supporters and opposers of this method?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not depend upon majority vote, and upon ascertaining what a hundred thousand people think for or against it.

निवारक निरोध अधिनियम

*१५१५. सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राज्य सरकारों ने, नजरबन्दों को भेंट की सुविधाएं दी जाने के बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा, उन्हें भेजी गई गश्ती चिट्ठी पर कोई कार्यवाही की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की गई है ;

(ग) क्या निवारक निरोध अधिनियम अ अन्तर्गत गिरफ्तार व्यक्तियों को भेंट की सुविधाएं दी जाती हैं ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो किन राज्यों में; और

(ङ) किन किन राज्यों में ऐसी सुविधाएं नहीं दी जातीं और उस के क्या कारण हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (e). Except for Coorg and Andamans where there has so far been no occasion to take action under the Preventive Detention Act, provision has since been made in the Detenus' Rules of all the States permitting persons detained under that Act to have an interview with a legal practitioner or any other person of his choice for the purpose of drafting his representation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Training in Modern Farming

*1494. **Shri D. C. Sharma**: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangements have been made for imparting intensive training in modern farming to army personnel; and

(b) if so, what they are?

The Minister of Defence Organization (Shri Tyagi): (a) Though no separate arrangements have been made, the training of interested Army personnel is entrusted to units themselves.

(b) The expert advice of Agricultural Departments is sought as and when necessary apart from the experimental plots which are set up at military farms for training of Army personnel in modern farming during service.

Hindustan Air-craft Limited

307. **Shri V. P. Nayar**: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the annual aggregate cost of stores and other equipment imported from foreign countries for use in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore, from the time Government took control upto-date?

The Minister of Defence Organization (Shri Tyagi): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 20.]

Social Welfare Organisations

308. **Shri N. Rachiah**: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Social Welfare Organisations to whom financial aid has been granted by the Central Social Welfare Board in Mysore State upto 28th February, 1954; and

(b) the extent of such aid granted to each of such organisations?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 21.]

Territorial Army

309. **Sardar Hukam Singh**: (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Territorial Army Units that have completed their basic training so far?

(b) Were any Units of the Territorial Army embodied in brigade formations for collective training also during 1953-54?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Over 90 per cent. of the Territorial Army units have completed their basic training.

(b) No.

समाज कल्याण संस्था

३१०. **श्री एस० एन० दास :** क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय समाज कल्याण बोर्ड की ओर से अब तक बिहार राज्य की विभिन्न संस्थाओं को कुल कितनी सहायता दी गई है और ऐसी संस्थाओं की संख्या कितनी है; और

(ख) क्या ऐसी किन्हीं संस्थाओं के आवेदनपत्र अस्वीकार कर दिये गए थे ?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) The Central Social Welfare Board has given grants to the extent of Rs. 51,500 to 15 organisations in Bihar State.

(b) No.

Seizure of Gold

311. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of gold seized at anchorage during 1951, 1952 and 1953 respectively; and

(b) whether any rewards were given to the officers who caught the gold?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Suspension of Customs Officers

312. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Customs Officers suspended during 1951, 1952 and 1953 separately;

(b) the nature of offences for which they have been suspended;

(c) the number of officers arrested and prosecuted during this period; and

(d) the number of officers reinstated?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a)

	1951	1952	1953
	29	28	28

(b) A statement is attached [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. **22.**]

(c) Arrested.	15	7	14
Prosecuted.	15	7	15
(d)	17	25	17

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THE Dated.....27.11.2014

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 1st April, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-55 P.M.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATIONING OF FRENCH POLICE FORCE OUTSIDE INDIAN CONSULATE IN PONDICHERY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received a notice from Shri Raghuramaiah calling attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of public importance and requesting him to make a statement thereon:—

> "The stationing of a French Indian police force at the gates of the Indian Consulate in Pondicherry, the interrogation of persons entering the Consulate by that force, the repressive policy of the French Indian Government, the occupation of two villages in Nettapakkam Commune by the Liberation group and the hoisting of the Indian Union tricolour in those villages."

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): For the present, Sir, if you wish, I can confirm one or two facts, and if it is the desire of the House, I can make a fuller statement in a day or two.

It is a fact, we are informed, that some policemen belonging to the French police, have been stationed in front of the Indian Consulate in Pondicherry and that they interrogate and take down the details of those who come in and go out of the Consulate. It is also a fact that some villages in the Nettapakkam Commune are in the occupation of persons in favour of merger with India, and it is also a fact, to our knowledge, that a great deal of repression is being exercised by the French authorities.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR GORAKHPUR

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received another notice from Shri Kasliwal requesting the Minister of Railways to make a statement on the following matter of public importance:

> "A serious railway disaster on the North-Eastern Railway between Lucknow and Gorakhpur on the night of 31st March. It is reported that some policemen were carrying dynamite sticks in a passenger compartment which blew up and a large number of casualties took place—about 37 killed and 50 injured."

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I have to inform the House with regret that an accident took place to 313 Up Katihar-Kanpur Passenger train at Jagatbela station at 8-33 P.M. last night

[Shri L. B. Shastri]

(the 31st March 1954), when an explosion occurred in the third class bogie No. 320, which was the fourth coach from the engine. Jagatbela is the third station after Gorakhpur on the Gorakhpur-Gonda section of the North-Eastern Railway. This coach was completely smashed and the two adjoining third class coaches also suffered slight damage. Besides ordinary passengers, a few civil policemen, who were carrying some explosive, were also travelling in the coach. As a result of the explosion, 28 persons were killed, including five policemen and 35 were injured, of which 16 were serious cases. Of these 16, three died on the way to the hospital. An ambulance special with principal Railway officers left Gorakhpur at 9-30 P.M. for the site of the accident and the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police followed them in a motor trolly. The Chief Medical Officer happened to be travelling by the ill-fated train and rendered first aid to the injured. Twenty-four injured passengers were admitted to the Civil Hospital, among which 7 are serious and 8 were admitted to the Railway Hospital, among which 6 are serious. The condition of one patient in the Railway Hospital is reported to be very serious. The District Magistrate and the Senior Deputy General Manager, North-Eastern Railway, visited the injured in the hospital at 1 A.M. this morning. Of the killed, only 5 policemen and 7 passengers have so far been identified. Through running of trains has not been interrupted.

3 P.M.

Shri Kelappan (Ponnani): May I know if explosives are allowed to be carried in carriages occupied by passengers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot allow questions. The hon. Member may give notice of a question, if necessary.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*continued.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Demands for Grants Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 111, 112 and 113 relating to the Ministry of Communications.

Members and Leaders of Groups may hand over the numbers of the cut motions which they select to the Secretary in fifteen minutes. I will treat them as moved if those hon. Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and they are otherwise in order.

The usual time-limit on speeches will be observed. I will place the Demands formally before the House.

DEMAND NO. 5—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,43,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND NO. 6—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,64,26,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 7—METEOROLOGY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,01,000 be granted to the

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*Moved with the previous sanction of the President.

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND NO. 8—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

DEMAND NO. 9—AVIATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,04,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND NO. 10—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND NO. 11—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,97,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 112—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND NO. 113—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,77,96,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Communications'."

I have now got the numbers of the cut motions which the hon. Members may formally move.

Increasing number of unemployed pilots

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Delay in publication of Master Committee Report etc.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Recognition of "Kara" for a village post office and not "Pakuthy"

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure of Government to integrate airlines

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure of Government to stop conflicting business interest for nationalisation

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Parliamentary Commission to hold enquiry into causes of loss in I.A.C. etc.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy of Air India International in ignoring union of workers

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Uniform pay scales and service conditions for labour

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Non-extension of Postal Life Insurance to ordinary citizens

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Providing Postal facilities in all villages with a population of one thousand or more

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kushtagi): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Introduction of mobile post offices in rural areas

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Increase of pay scales of Hyderabad State Postal employees

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Opening of telegraph offices in all Taluk headquarters in Hyderabad State

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Providing telephone offices in all Taluks and big business centres in Hyderabad State

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Creation of new cadre of Assistant Inspectors of Post Offices

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Realignment of unions in the department as put forward by D. G. P. & T.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Inadequate accommodation in Post Offices

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Lack of quarters for employees of Postal Department

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Discriminatory and prejudicial treatment towards ex-State employees of Travancore-Cochin State

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Payment of salaries according to Central Pay Commission scales to ex-State employees

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Extension of telephone connections to rural areas

Shri Boovaraghasamy (Perambalur): I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Fiscal policy of the Department

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Appointment of a Committee of M.Ps. for judicious allocation of surplus of the Department

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for increasing postal and telegraph facilities in Kota and Sreeharikota areas in Nellore District

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase house rent and other allowances to P. & T. Offices in Nellore-cum-Korur offices

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Treatment of ex-State employees of T. C. State integrated in Central Services

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Publication of meteorological forecasts in detail in Regional languages etc.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Meteorology' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Working of Air Corporation with special reference to its failure in avoiding accidents

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to redress grievances of Civil Aviation Department employees

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to recognise Civil Aviation Department Employees Union

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to grant free medical service for class IV staff of Civil Aviation Department

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to give decent living quarters to Class IV staff of Civil Aviation Department

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to allow Class IV staff of Civil Aviation Department to contribute to G. P. Fund

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Security of service of Civil Aviation Department staff

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Setting up of an Expert Committee to look into wage structure, living and service conditions in Civil Aviation Department

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Discussion may now proceed on all these Demands and cut motions which are placed before the House.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Sir, I have very great pleasure to support the Demands relating to the Ministry of Communications. Sir, the progress achieved by the Communications Ministry in the expansion of communication facilities in our country after the attainment of our independence constitutes a proud record of the popular Government.

Sir, by 1953 for the five years preceding that year 35,000 new post offices had been opened. The ideal of one post office for every village is near fulfilment. The progress of opening new post offices under a group scheme is now under way. Sir, under the group scheme, as has been given out in the official publication, 2,390 more post offices have been opened by this time. I gather that it has been estimated that about 25,000 new post offices will be opened by the year 1956 under the new scheme. By December 1953, 150 combined telegraph offices had been opened making a total of 8,620 for the whole of India. All the district headquarters and sub-division stations will have telegraph facilities, irrespective of the loss involved. The limit of loss for sub-division stations has been increased to Rs. 1,000.

With regard to telephone communications, from the figures I understand that there is a total number of 2,18,000 telephone connections and 2,258 public call offices have been opened throughout the length and breadth of the country. Sir, I concede that in a country of the size and population that we have it is not enough. However, we are proceeding according to schedule, according to the scheme that we have laid down in the Five Year Plan and we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on our achievement so far.

Sir, I concede that there are certain problems to be tackled. One problem is the shortage of accommodation in offices. Immediate requirements for additional accommodation I think entail an expenditure of Rs. 20 crores. The Plan has provided for only 2·5 crores in this respect. Secondly there are more than 5,000 rented buildings and we should have more of our own buildings. Thirdly, there is the question of the employees' amenities which call for urgent attention. Construction of quarters for the employees is an urgent necessity. About Rs. 80 crores will be necessary for providing residential quarters for 50 per cent. of our employees. Then there is this question of staff welfare and amenities. These are gigantic problems which we have to handle and I hope that the Communications Ministry is quite alive to these problems and will be taking up these one by one. It is also gratifying to note that it is endeavouring to make progress in several directions; and it has got some achievements to its credit.

One particular feature that I have been able to note is that small plans have been evolved for smaller post offices to save time in the completion of preliminary stages such as preparation of drawings, estimates etc. The bottleneck experienced in the Central Public Works Department must be taken serious notice of and I would have to refer to this aspect once more when I refer to another point.

In page 5 of the publication with regard to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, it has been stated that the Regional P. & T. Advisory Committees have been functioning in

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

the various postal circles since 1949 and that these Committees proved to be very popular especially with the business community. As a member of the Regional Advisory Committee, I admit that useful work has been done by these Committees and I want to invite the attention of the Ministry to one or two aspects in the working of these Committees.

Although the recommendations of these Committees are given due consideration at the level of the various Postmasters-General, I am sorry to state that it has not been given due recognition at the level of the Director-General or at the Ministerial level. For example, I might say in my State, Travancore-Cochin, everybody knows that two States, Travancore and Cochin, have been integrated and it is one State now. There has been a system of 'phonocom', *i.e.*, sending messages through telephone facilities obtaining in Travancore before the telephones were taken over by the Centre. That system still continues in the Travancore area but although so many territories of the erstwhile Travancore State got into the Cochin State, that facility is not being obtained in the Cochin area and in more than one meeting of the Committee, this fact has been brought to the notice of both the Director-General and, I believe, the Minister also. The Postmaster-General, at every meeting, shows a sort of helplessness in this matter. When the matter came up for discussion in one of the meetings of the Committee, we were told that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, called for certain particulars in this connection and the information collected is being compiled for transmission to the Director-General. The members then decided that it should be recorded that they feel strongly in favour of this service being made available to the Cochin area and that this may be brought to the notice of the Director-General for his attention. Such small things which could be done without any difficulty are not being done although they come as recommendations of these Committees.

With regard to some other matters also, there has been some delay. A building for lodging a telegraph office and a telephone exchange was sanctioned some two years ago in Mattancheri and because of the delay that has been caused by the C.P.W.D., it has not been possible to carry out the construction of the building at all. That is why I repeat that the bottleneck at the C.P.W.D. should be taken serious notice of. On more than one occasion, I was told that the file was with the Chief Architect in the C.P.W.D. and it has not yet been disposed of by him. Such delay is inexecusable and I wish that the Ministry should take serious notice of such lapses on the part of the Central Public Works Department.

Another fact which has been brought up by the Committee is the peculiar circumstances that should be taken into account in granting permission to open post offices in my State. There is a target that has been fixed by the Five Year Plan, namely, that for every village with a population of 2,000 and above, there will be a post office; it is all right to have such a criterion in States where there is a village of several houses grouped together and form a *gramam* or something like that. But in Travancore-Cochin the density of population is rather uniform and the whole State may be taken as a town; the density of population is the highest in the world and for such a State an altogether different criterion has to be adopted in sanctioning post offices. The criterion that a post office will be opened for every village having a population of two

thousand and above cannot be applied to such States. I am glad that the modification that has been introduced last year, namely the group system, may perhaps improve matters a little in such States. It has been stated that the highest priority should be accorded to the opening of post offices which are expected to be remunerative, as also post offices in respect of which non-returnable contribution is offered by any interested party to cover the estimated loss, provided that the opening of any such post office does not result in the parent office being worked at a loss beyond the permissible limit. There is the other criterion also that post offices are to be opened in headquarters of administrative units like *tehsils*, *taluks* or *thanas*, provided the loss does not exceed Rs. 750 per annum per post office. If such a criterion is applied there may be some special benefits accruing to my State.

Having said so far about the achievements that we have had, I would submit that greater improvement is to be had in our Communications services. Going by the figures—and I am speaking subject to correction—our postal, telegraph, telephone and other rates, when compared with the world rates, are perhaps the highest, except with regard to envelopes carrying letters. I have been able to gather that in England (going by the value in rupees) even with regard to letters, a letter costs only 2½ annas, and in America it is two cents, that is only one anna and odd. And the charge for an air mail letter in America is only four annas or something like that. I am sure the House is aware of the very bitter criticism that was levelled during the discussion of the Budget last year with regard to increase in the postal rates, particularly parcels and book-posts and it has been stated that it would cripple the book industry. I am sorry to note that no modification in the rates structure has been made in this year's Budget. I may also submit that the postal worker in America gets about four hundred rupees a week, and in England ninety to one hundred and twenty rupees. In our country it is only sixteen to twenty rupees. If the remuneration that is given to our worker is only sixteen to twenty rupees, I respectfully ask why is it that our expenses are so high, why is it that the expenditure in the Posts and Telegraphs Department is more than the revenue. It should be attributed to the poor organisation and the non-adoption of modern methods of technique in our Posts and Telegraphs Department.

I would plead not only for consolidation of the work that we have done so far but also for rationalisation. If we introduce rationalisation in the Posts and Telegraphs, there is no risk of anybody being thrown out of employment, because we have a target of extending our postal and telegraph facilities to every village, so that there is absolutely no risk in adopting a policy of rationalisation with regard to Posts and Telegraphs.

With these words I support the demand that has been moved.

Shri C. R. Mudaliar (Kumbakonam): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on these Demands. Before I cogratulate the Minister for his various achievements I congratulate myself for having caught your eyes at least today, after a long period. I am really surprised at the various cut motion tabled by the Memebrs of the Opposition. I doubt very much whether it can be seriously suggested that the great national undertakings which are under the present Ministry can be better managed than at present (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may speak a little more distinctly and slowly. This is the first time that the hon. Member is speaking and I request the House to be a little more indulgent to him.

Shri C. R. Mudaliar: I find all-round progress in the various fields of activities. The post offices that were opened since the date of our independence number 18,000 and odd which is almost equal to the number of post offices opened during one hundred and fifty years of British rule. Remote villages and backward areas which never dreamt of having any post offices, are having them today. The new policy of opening post offices on population-*cum*-distance basis will result in greater number of post offices and greater convenience for the rural population. The Minister for Communications deserves to be thanked for this.

Coming to the telegraph and telephone services, I find a lot of improvements effected. The efficiency and economy in their working have increased. As you know, Sir, time is a very important factor in these services. Therefore, mechanical contrivances like teleprinters have been introduced to reduce delays in transmissions. Further, the conditions to open telegraph offices and telephone public call offices have been liberalised. I want that all taluk headquarters and places having a population of more than 2,000 should have these conveniences irrespective of other considerations.

I want to say a few words about the postal rates. It is stated that they are low as compared to other countries. This may be true. But, our country is a poor one and the paying capacity of our people is limited. They feel that the present rates are too heavy to bear. Take the case of post cards which is being sold for nine pies each. People feel that this is high. Such is their poverty. We know Government is incurring a loss of four pies on each card. Considering the poor condition of our people, I request the Government to reduce the price of post card to six pies, and the loss made up by other ways.

It is said that the postal department is a losing concern. It was only last year that the rates were heavily enhanced and no further increase is possible. The only way to avoid loss is to undertake an economy drive in all its branches and in all aspects.

In the first place, the highly ambitious schemes to construct costly buildings should be given up, not only in this Ministry but also in other Ministries. I find this mania is existing everywhere and in all departments. If this mania goes, I think people can be relieved to a great extent of the burden of taxation. I shudder to think at what cost and at whose cost a large number of grand, multi-storeyed buildings are constructed here in Delhi.

Sir, anniversaries, centenaries, exhibitions and other gala functions are ever increasing in numbers in recent years. I wish that many of them are dropped, if not all. There is another fad for which we are spending a lot nowadays—I mean Hindi. The different Ministries vie with each other in spending large amounts for Hindi. The transition from English to Hindi seems to be a costly luxury. In the postal department, cards, covers, stamps and money order forms are found printed in Hindi and distributed to people who cannot understand the language. The Minister for Communications wants to take credit for having introduced Hindi telegrams, Hindi telegraphic money orders, Hindi teleprinters and so on. I request him and other Ministers not to proceed ahead with this scheme and spend large sums of money on it, till the people living in different parts of this great country become fully conversant with this language. For the people living in South India, Hindi is as much foreign as any other language excepting English. In the circumstances I wish the expenditure incurred on this score is appreciably reduced.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must look up now and then.

Shri Thanu Pillai (Tirunelveli): Sir, yesterday also there were some

hon. Members who read their speeches.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But looking up is not a bad thing!

Shri C. R. Mudaliar: Lastly, I want to say a few words about Civil Aviation which was recently nationalised. This is a very important matter from different angles of view. This is a matter that relates to life and death of many of our people. Many of us here have got very great concern in this matter as our very existence is threatened. This is evident from the fact that in most of the accidents, the life of one or more M.Ps. is involved.

When the air transport was nationalised a few months ago, I was one of those who felt glad over it. Now, it is different. The way in which this great undertaking is managed and the heavy loss it is incurring is really depressing. Within six months of nationalisation, four accidents had happened. This is shocking and surprising to me. This has created a fear and a feeling of insecurity in the minds of the travelling public. They are of opinion now that a travel in our air services is a first step to commit suicide. Air travellers instead of becoming air-minded are fast becoming grave-minded! I appeal to the Ministry to substitute the old and worn out Dakota planes with new and modern planes. In a vast country like India, there is a great future for civil aviation. I want the Minister to create confidence and a feeling of security in the minds of our people and increase efficiency. I want that the air services should be extended to all district headquarters. All the aerodromes which are in existence now should be utilised and kept trim. In Tanjore where I come from, there is an aerodrome which is kept unused. My district is a place of plenty and goes by the name of the granary of the South. If the aerodrome is opened, I feel that traffic will be encouraging. I request the Ministry to try this for a year as an experimental measure.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Within the short space of time at my disposal, it will be very difficult to deal with the various departments under the Ministry of Communications. I shall first take up the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Before I proceed to make some observations, I would say that the Department has been run on a very efficient basis. This is mainly due to the fact that the personnel who are manning it, numbering about 250,000, despite very bad working conditions, in the sense of improper accommodation in the offices, bad quarters, and so forth, have been able to maintain it very efficiently at a great sacrifice of their personal comforts.

I would just touch upon the fiscal policy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. There is no rational policy that is being followed in the matter of Posts and Telegraphs. Whether it be the price of the post card or the envelope or telegram charges, anyone who tries to know anything about the financial aspect of the Posts and Telegraphs Department would only be confused because the accounts are not clearly maintained. We do not know what the cost of maintaining a combined post and telegraph office is, or of various other offices. It is very difficult to find. Whereas the Department spends Rs. 40/- on the maintenance of a mile of copper wire and something like Rs. 31 for a mile of iron wire, what does this Department charge the Railways? They charge for the iron wire something like Rs. 19/- and for copper wire a little more than that. Thus, a rational policy is not being followed; nor is proper cost accounting maintained. We have to see how this affects the personnel. They are not able to get even the minimum requirements. For example, I may refer to the meagre provision of Rs. 3,00,000 for amenities to staff, numbering 250,000. That too, last year there was a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs, and till the end of this

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year it is only something like Rs. 2½ lakhs. The interest that is paid on the capital outlay of Posts and Telegraphs is not also a fixed one. Only a few days ago we heard that the rates have been suddenly increased.

Then, looking into the other things, I find that the allocation to the Revenue Reserve Fund has been increased from Rs. 1 crore a year to Rs. 125 lakhs. That is, I am told, according to the recommendation of the J. J. Committee. Of course, the recommendations of that Committee are not before me at the moment, but this is what is happening. A similar department like the Railways have a convention in this matter. They pay every year a fixed rate of interest on the capital outlay, and the other amount is being maintained for development purposes in the Revenue Reserve Fund. Why could we not have a similar thing for our Posts and Telegraphs? We can pay a fixed rate of interest and the balance that is left could be used for developmental purposes.

While we call this a public utility service in a welfare state, I cannot understand why, after paying the interest charges, 50 per cent. of the surplus is allocated to the General Reserve and only 50 per cent. is kept for the department, and that too as *pro forma* credit to the department. Today, there is something like Rs. 16 to Rs. 17 crores to the credit of the Postal Department and what is happening? When we want to draw any amount for the construction of buildings, for the construction of post offices, we cannot get all the Rs. 16 crores. We get only something like Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 crores, and during the period of one year even this small provision that is made cannot be spent, despite the fact that we are in urgent need of expansion of the offices and so forth. For example, the traffic has increased by two-fold and three-fold, but I can say the floor space of the offices has not increased.

Then, the housing conditions are very deplorable. I cannot imagine the Postal Department asking the Railway Department to construct quarters for them. We all know, and we have heard several times in this very House, how the Railways themselves are not able to provide quarters for their own staff. So, to ask the Railways to construct quarters for the Postal Department is something amazing.

To cite an example, there are nearly 3,200 employees in Hyderabad State, and last year when I put a question asking how many quarters were being constructed in view of the scarcity of houses there, they said three were under construction. When I asked whether they had been completed, at what stage of construction they were, the reply was one was under construction and the other two would be taken up! That is the position. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister—and I am glad the Finance Minister is here—and the Government to consider the question of appointing a committee, say, of Parliament Members, to go into this whole question of the finances of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, just as it has been done in the case of the Railways, so that we could have a proper assessment of the whole thing. Otherwise, I do not know what is going to happen.

The telephones is the only arm in the Posts and Telegraphs Department that is yielding profit today, and the Telegraphs are already running at a loss. These things cause us grave concern. And now, the changeover has been effected from iron wire to copper wire. Now, we have so much shortage of copper. We do want to develop Posts and Telegraphs, but at what cost? We have to depend on foreign countries for this. We were self-sufficient with iron wire carriers. Why should we go in for copper wire carriers when we have to depend on foreign countries? Depending on foreign countries we do not know at

what time the supply would be stopped. So, it is very necessary that we should think of developing our telegraph industry. For instance, the teleprinter service has been introduced. That is very good, but even for the spare parts, we have to depend on foreign countries. I do not know what arrangements are being made to manufacture those parts in our own country.

Moreover, the rates fixed for telegraph wires rented to the Railways and other departments, have not been revised so far, even though these rates were fixed in 1939, and the expenditure incurred by the Posts and Telegraphs Department has increased in recent years. It is time that these rates are revised, especially when it is said that they want money for developmental purposes.

I would earnestly ask why some consideration should not be shown to the staff who are working under adverse conditions. Last year, the hon. Minister told us that they are governed by the Central Pay Commission's recommendations. It is true that they are governed by the Central Pay Commission's recommendations. But a railway clerk who puts in only thirty-six hours of work per week gets the same pay as a clerk or a postmaster who works for forty-eight hours. There is a lot of discontentment on this score among these postal employees.

Whenever we ask for an increase in the number of staff, we always get the same stereotyped reply from the hon. Minister, well, we could increase the staff, but there is not sufficient accommodation in the offices. They recognise the fact that it could be increased, but they have not done anything about it. The Department are not able to make any progress in regard to buildings, because they depend mainly on the Central Public Works Department. On the other hand, it is surprising that the Railways and the Reserve Bank should be able to have buildings of their own in Delhi. But the Posts and Telegraphs Department are not able to construct a building of their own. Only a few days ago, I saw the R.M.S. Office.—I referred to it last year also—and I found the place most congested. Very important and costly insured articles are lying there, and if they are stolen or lost, the staff there are made to suffer and pay for them. It is such an elementary thing that there should be proper accommodation for this Office. It is time that Government change their attitude in this matter, and do something early. Otherwise, I must submit that the postal employees cannot be made to bear the loss. Today, the postal employees have been asked not to receive their pay as a protest against the attitude of the hon. Minister of Finance, because certain discriminations have been made in the case of the postal employees in the 'C' class areas.

Now I come to one very important matter. It being a welfare state, what is happening is that all our letters are being tampered with. Is it fair when we are having a democratic and welfare state, that all our letters should be handed over to the C.I.D. people, before they are delivered to us? In the Singareni collieries, there is only one post office, and there, right in my presence, all my letters are being handed over to the C.I.D. man, and only after censoring is done by him, they are delivered to me.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati): That has nothing to do with the Posts and Telegraphs Department. That is under the Home Ministry.

Shri A. P. Sinha (Muzaffarpur East): The Home Minister is responsible for that. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members may leave it to the hon. Minister to reply.

Shri A. P. Sinha: We could enlighten our friends.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I agree that the Home Ministry is responsible for that. But when I pay for it, and a letter is handed over to the Postal Department, it should be the Postal Department that should handle it, and

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it should not go into hands of the C.I.D. people.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sometimes they do not reach us at all. Who is responsible for that?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: If you call it a welfare State you should not tamper with the letters of others.

Even in the matter of nomination to the Postal Advisory Committees, the Communist Party in particular is left out. We are also a political party. If the hon. Minister does not want us, let him say, I do not want you for such and such a reason, and then we will agree. But without any such reason, why should the Communist Party alone be left out in this matter?

It has been said that developmental work has been carried on at a great pace. I agree, there has been development.

Sir, I wrote to the Ministry about opening a post office in the town of Kothagudium (Warrangal District). It has a population of 55,000 and there is only one post office for that whole area of five or six square miles. I wanted another post office to be located at the other point, three miles from the existing post office, that is, converting that extra departmental office into a regular departmental post office. After a long time the Minister has written to me that it has been sanctioned. But I find that the post office has not yet been started. They have written to the company for a building and they have replied that there are no buildings. I would earnestly ask the Minister what efforts have been made in this direction. This is only an example. This is true of many other places. What efforts are being made by the Department to construct its own buildings? No effort is made, but they are content with paying huge amounts as rent. For example, in Delhi itself they pay Rs. 59,000 per annum as rent. This is the story everywhere. Huge amounts are being spent by way of rent without any plan for construction of buildings.

I will say one word about the R.M.S. vans. We have got very few vans and they are outdated and outmoded. They cannot be properly cleaned also. It is very unhygienic to work there because it is congested. It is difficult to sort out letters because one has to do it sitting on the floor. I have seen it myself. We can easily get some more vans which have been built by the Hindustan Aircraft Factory and which are said to be good vans. The capacity of the Hindustan Aircraft Factory could be utilised for the construction of these mail vans.

Now, I come to civil aviation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought the hon. Member was on the last point.

An Hon. Member: Last but one!

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I want something to be done for the unemployed pilots. There are very many unemployed pilots. They can be employed by reducing the number of flying hours of the pilots. Sir, I hear that according to the I.C.A.O. convention, the number of hours to be flown by a pilot is less than what it is in India. So I would ask the Minister to consider that.

Then, Sir, an Expert Committee should be appointed to go into the wage question of the Civil Aviation employees, because this Department did not come under the purview of the Central Pay Commission. Such a Committee should be appointed and a fair deal should be meted out to them.

Finally, I would ask the Minister to seriously consider the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission to go into the fiscal policy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): I am glad that both the hon. Communications Minister and the hon. Finance Minister are present here. Last year in the debate on the Demands for Grants for Communications, I pleaded for the separation of postal finance from the General finance. I am sorry,

Sir, I have not been replied to. I hope both the Ministers here will tell us what is in their minds and what are the difficulties, if there are any. If it is not possible for the Government to go into the matter at present, I would, at the outset, suggest to the Government to appoint a Parliamentary Commission to go into the finances of Posts and Telegraphs and see whether they can be separated as for the Railways. India can safely brag of the achievements she has made at least in communications, especially in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. When India was partitioned, there were, on August 15, 1947, only 22,116 post offices in India. But now, upto 31st March, 1954, we find that there are 44,817 post offices in India. That is, it has been doubled. within these 6½ years. On an average, 3,723 post offices have been opened per year. About these post offices which have been opened, Government's policy has been to keep them as extra-departmental ones. I know why this policy has been devised. The postmasters of these extra-departmental post offices get only Rs. 20 and they serve up to 4 hours a day. Our Finance Minister asked us, the people, to be ready for sacrifices. This is an example of sacrifice. They are serving only on Rs. 20 per mensem. (*Interruption*).

Shri M. D. Joshi (Ratnagiri South): Many of them are employed elsewhere.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Not all. Here I may add that the District Board in Midnapore in West Bengal and some District Boards in Madras have prevented school masters being extra-departmental postmasters. So, people are not available. The question of these extra-departmental post offices where these people are serving with some sacrifice should be looked into. They should be given at least this assurance that as soon as these post offices become self-sufficient, they will become full-fledged employees, or after 10 years they will become full-fledged employees, so that they will carry on their work honestly, efficiently and diligently. Some such assurance should be given to these people.

We find that for opening these post offices, we incurred a loss of Rs. 4 crores and including 1954-55, Rs. 5 crores. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to adjust these Rs. 5 crores and any other sum that may be spent within the Plan period from the Plan funds, so that the Posts and Telegraphs Department may be self-sufficient.

Sir, I put forth so many reasons for the separation of postal finance. Now, I want to put forth some others for corroboration. I enquired of the Communications Ministry and I have been supplied this information that the capital outlay on buildings in five departments has lapsed to the extent of Rs. 2,11,64,000 during the last 4 years on account of inability to construct buildings. Though there was so much money, still a sum of Rs. 2 crores and more lapsed. Why? Because the work was entrusted to the C.P.W.D. We know the distressed condition of the post offices and the places where the postal employees live. No amenities are given, although Government want to give them all amenities. The fault lies with the C.P.W.D. Government should not entrust the work to the C.P.W.D. The Posts and Telegraphs Department should have its own engineering department and should take the work in hand.

Last year, I mentioned that there were so many employees suffering from T.B. The reason is that they are overworked. Compared to the post offices which have been opened, the number of employees has not increased. There are 2,34,097 employees. About 1,78,000 are permanent and 55,000 are temporary. There are 1,004 officers and 51,459 E.D. branch offices. These employees do not get the benefits or amenities that they should get. They are on the same footing as the railway employees. Both are run commercially and for utility purposes. But from the leaflet supplied to us, I find that there are only 162 co-operative societies, 208 canteens and 165 dormitories. There is no school for

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the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, whereas there are 152 schools and a college is contemplated for the railway employees. About the quarters, I need not mention anything. As regards training schools, there are only two training schools, whereas railway employees have 29 training schools. There is no hospital, whereas railway employees have so many hospitals. Only 41 beds are reserved for P. & T. employees who suffer from T.B.

There is another important point, and that is about the printing of forms and stationery. This also is in the hands of the Controller of Printing and Stationery. The Department orders for lakhs and lakhs of rupees worth of forms to be sent to different places. When the post office asks for more forms, the D.G. says that they have been already supplied, but the post office does not get any supply. The forms are not also received in time. Why should the P. & T. Department depend upon others? They are moneylenders; they have deposits in the general revenues. Still, they cannot carry on their own work. I would request Government to ponder over the matter and do the needful.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department finances should be separated. A Parliamentary Committee should be set up to go into the matter. The Posts and Telegraphs Department should have an engineering department of its own. The postal rate for bookpacket should be reduced and brought to the level prevailing before May 1953. The P.A.C. Reports for 1951 and 1952 and the Audit Reports for those years have been published, but after that, no reports are available and we, Members of Parliament, cannot speak anything without them. There should be a separate printing department. Mechanisation of postal services should be taken up. Hospital beds and T.B. beds should at once be increased. An assurance should be given to the E.D. brance offices. Provision should be made for rural post offices and the losses resulting therefrom, in the Five Year Plan. The unions should be consulted in the reorganisation of the R.M.S. Division that is going on.

With these suggestions, I conclude.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri M. D. Joshi.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am very thankful to you for this opportunity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This hon. Member had written to me saying that he has not spoken for the whole session.

Shri M. D. Joshi: I had said I had not spoken during the general discussion on the Budget.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought this was going to be a maiden speech by the hon. Member.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): He is not a 'maiden'.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would appeal to hon. Members that whoever has not had an opportunity to speak during the motion on the President's address, or during the cut motions on the Railway Budget, or during the Demands pertaining to individual Ministries,— only such hon. Members ought to be given preference, so that instead of those who have taken part once or twice or thrice, those who have not opened their mouths at all may be called. Of course, some hon. Members have inevitably to speak again and again, but I must give a chance to those who have not spoken. If Shri Joshi will yield to a Member who has not spoken, I would call another Member.

Shri M. D. Joshi: I did not say that I have never spoken before.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may go on.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Will you apply the same principle to male as well as female Members in this House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not that I am not at all going to call Members who have spoken before. I will only try

to give preference, as far as possible, to those who have not spoken before.

Shri M. D. Joshi: I am not one of those inevitables who speak times without number. Since I have something important to say, I have got up. I do not wish to dilate on the report supplied to us by the Ministry. I wish to congratulate the Ministry on the imagination, the effort, the idealism and the determination which they have brought to bear on the task in hand. Although we have been making strides in the matter of postal communication, still there are certain things that leave much to be desired. At page 16 of the report, I find that in Bombay, only 25 new post offices are proposed to be opened from 1st February 1954 to 31st March 1954, while in other States more than 100, and somewhere more than 200, post offices are going to be opened. Of course, I do not quarrel with those States which are going to have 100 post offices and more, but in Bombay State, there are backward areas which need post offices very sorely. I would particularly mention the strip of land in my district,—Ratnagiri District,—which is 200 miles long and about 30 to 40 miles in width. The western part of this District, which has a width of about 15 miles, is well served by post offices, but the eastern part is hilly and inaccessible. I would say that most times very few of the postal authorities have approached the far off nooks and corners in that hilly part. I have several times questioned Postal Superintendents and Inspectors as to how many distant visits they have made in that part. The Revenue authorities visit all the villages there, but the postal authorities have not been able to do so. What they generally do is to travel in a motor car and visit the nearest places only, but it should not be so. I am myself the editor of a newspaper and have received several complaints from two places in the northern part and one in the southern part, which is the part from which my friend the Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation hails—the former Sawantwadi State. There was a complaint in a Bombay newspaper that 28 villages were being served by a single post office. There was another complaint received by me that 18 villages had no delivery for about ten days and that they were being served by one post office. This state of things must be corrected as early as possible. Let us not congratulate ourselves with stock phrases and say "God is in Heaven and all is right with the world"—let us not run away with that idea.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The hon. Member has started with that idea.

Shri M. D. Joshi: At page 17 of the report I find that a reference is made to the elimination of "no dak" villages. It is a very fine resolution and I request the hon. Minister to give effect to it as soon as possible.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It has been given effect to.

Shri M. D. Joshi: If I may be allowed to say, even though a village consisting of more than 2,000 people is expected to have a post office, there are still many villages which have no post offices in my part.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is something different.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Another thing is that in some of the areas which are separated by two or three hills, there is only one post office and the villagers have to travel over those hills to reach the Post Office. I suggest that grouping of villages should be done in such a way that the location of a post office will be convenient for the villagers.

4 P.M.

I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a conference of low-grade post office staff held in Alibag some days ago—probably on the 13th and 14th March 1954—under the chairmanship of one of my colleagues, a co-worker of my district. They have made several demands and stated several of their grievances, into which I do not wish to go in detail now, but I shall only mention one or two of them. One is that a rural postman has to travel about 8 to 10 miles of his beat, and added to that, if we take the small distances he has to travel from

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house to house and return, his beat covers about 15 to 16 miles, which is something beyond human physical capacity to bear. They have, therefore, made a request that the beat should be reduced to between 4 and 6 miles a day, so that even though they have to go and come back and cover the distance twice, the whole beat will not exceed 10 miles at the most. There are various other requests made. If I am proved to be wrong, I shall be very glad, but they have made a request for umbrellas and raincoats, which are a very urgent necessity in my part because we have a rainfall of about 100 to 150 inches a year. When the postmen go with their bags and packets, they are drenched. Therefore, supply of these articles is a very urgent necessity. Without going into their other demands, I shall call the hon. Minister's attention to the grievances cited in the resolutions of the conference.

Having drawn the attention of the hon. Minister to a corner of the country, namely, my part, I shall venture to call the attention of the Government to the Capital itself, namely, Delhi. In New Delhi, there are many post offices and sub-post offices—about sixty in number. They are administered by one central head post office. Formerly, this office was a sub-Post office, and the higher status of a head office was given to it on 1st April 1948, exactly six years ago. The office was at that time presided over by a second class officer, and the state of things continues though the work and the staff have increased. Formerly, the staff was 350 and today it is about 330 or 340. Perhaps my figures may be slightly incorrect. The non-clerical staff was about 430, which has now increased to 750. The work has increased by several hundred per cent., and yet the higher staff have not been increased to the extent it is desirable to increase them. In order that a clear idea may be had, I shall compare two post offices. I shall finish within two or three minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You have already taken more than 10 minutes.

Shri M. D. Joshi: I will finish in two minutes. The Madras G.P.O. and the Delhi G.P.O. may be compared. The number of clerks is 433 in the Mardas G.P.O., whereas it is 525 in the case of Delhi. The postmen in the Madras G.P.O. number 193, whereas they number 461 in Delhi. In class IV staff, there are about 190 in Madras, but 280 in Delhi. It is a remarkable fact that in Madras the gazetted officers number two; higher selection-grade officers number five; lower selection-grade officers number 13. In Delhi the number of gazetted officers is nil; higher selection-grade officers number only two and lower selection-grade officers number 20. Time-scale supervisors are thirty in Madras and 29 in Delhi.

So it will be seen that Delhi is very inadequately provided as far as staff is concerned. Considering the fact that various important elements like Members of Parliament, Ministers, Embassies, etc. have to be served in Delhi and the widening scope of work, it is very necessary that a complete reorganisation of this post office must be made as early as possible.

I have some other points...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On some other occasion.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): Sir, once again I would like to repeat the suggestion I have made more than once before that one part of the work of the Ministry of Communications, that dealing with Civil Aviation, should form part and parcel of the Ministry of Defence. It is nothing new. Every year I get more and more strengthened in my conviction; this time the additional conviction comes from the report of the Master Committee. I know a day might come when this House will have an opportunity to discuss this particular Report. All that I can say now is that the way Civil Aviation has gone so far makes it more and more incumbent that it should be transferred to a Ministry that can make up its mind quickly and be definite about its policy, a Ministry that understands

the meaning of discipline and orderly behaviour. Sir, enough bouquets are being thrown all round the House, from every quarter of this Parliament, and my young friends in the Treasury Benches will forgive me if once again I not only criticise them but offer suggestions for their own edification.

Civil aviation, not only in this country but in every modern state, is the second line of defence. If my hon. friends in the Treasury Benches do accept it, they should have no objection,—except that they will lose the strength of this particular protfolio,—to this particular work being transferred to another Ministry which, after all, is part of the same administration of this country. If it is the second line of defence, it follows that it should be co-ordinated with the first line of defence.

I do not propose to go into details, because in the past I have found it impossible to make my friends believe what is the obvious truth. Truth is stranger than fiction to them. Things are happening before our very eyes every day. We had an excellent record, a record of which we should be proud, really proud, a record that stood on its own ground throughout the whole world in the matter of civil aviation. But in the last few years the decline has been progressive,—we have been going down. Whereas within the first three years or so we did not have a single accident in this country, what is the position today? It is not merely the recurrence of accidents, serious accidents, but this House does not know, the country is not told, that there has been a series of forced landings in this country in the last few years. Now, it may be argued—as it has often been said whenever any question has been asked on the floor of this House—that there is always the human element. But the human element was there before also when we had an excellent record. There is no doubt in my mind that Government should seriously consider whether the proposal I am making is not in the best interests of the development of civil aviation and its future as far as this country is concerned.

We all know that when it comes to the Armed Forces there are certain things taken for granted, as for example, discipline. We do not know whether we could say the same thing in regard to our civil aviation. I am only trying to contrast these two aspects. If civil aviation has to make any headway, the most important thing that is necessary in it today is discipline, which unfortunately has deteriorated considerably in the last few years or so. I find no way of solving this problem, this lack of discipline and a deterioration in maintenance of standards and various other things, unless there is an agency that understands the meaning of discipline. Because it is the second line of defence, the first attention that we should direct to is this question of discipline. I urge that Government should seriously consider the transfer of civil aviation to the Ministry of Defence. Then, there will be a co-ordination of our defence policy.

Some people may think that this is somehow or other by way of response to recent developments. Sir, I have been asking for this before the recent developments ever came to the surface. To me it seems an obvious thing. If you look at the Master Committee Report you will find that again and again there are various paragraphs relating to the question of the maintenance of civil aviation in this country and again and again I find that the assistance of the Defence Ministry has been invoked. I will give only one or two instances. My hon. friends there will agree that in the present circumstances and for a few years to come, they will not be able to keep the flying clubs alive unless they do it with the help of the N.C.C. I do not blame them for that. But there are the facts Then, it strengthens my argument; if they have to depend on the Defence Ministry, on the N.C.C., it is obvious that the whole control and administration of this matter should be in the same hands. I would not like to say that there is no co-operation between the Ministry of

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Defence and the Ministry of Communications. I will leave this particular matter to the imagination of this House. But should this branch of civil aviation be transferred to the Ministry of Defence the question of co-ordination and co-operation just does not arise. It becomes automatic.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is that inference drawn because the Defence Ministers are not here?

Shri Jaipal Singh: It is a very unhappy augury that Ministers take things very lightly and are not present in their seats when important matters, particularly regarding the Defence Ministry, are discussed. It does not mean that because the Ministry of Communications is on the anvil other Ministers should take *chhutti*.

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): They are not on *chhutti*: I can assure you.

An Hon. Member: How do you know?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are working in their offices.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I am very glad they are working. I hope my young friend will make them work harder by passing on the notes of what I am saying. Once civil aviation is passed on to the Ministry of Defence, I have no doubt whatever that there will be maintenance of very high standards which are not there now.

I will not go into the details. Let us take the matter of flying clubs. There is no common standard at all in these clubs. One club has one standard and the other has another standard. What happened in the Madras Flying Club recently? Why were the cadets withdrawn? It was because the Ministry of Defence were not satisfied about the standards; I will only say this much; I can give more details if my friends want; in the very short time at my disposal it is not possible. In short, it is a question of maintenance of standards.

One friend on this side talked about the question of unemployment of pilots. It is a very serious thing. There again an awful muddle has been made. There has been a terrible overproduction of pilots and there was no planning whatever in the Civil Aviation Directorate. Today there are more than one hundred pilots who have spent thousands of rupees in training but who could not be employed. Such a question would never occur where it is a question of Civil Aviation in charge of the Ministry of Defence because there will be coordination and possibilities of absorption of civilian pilots into the Indian Air Force and *vice versa*. There should be planning and co-ordination. It looks as if we are working in watertight compartments.

Before I go on to other things, I would like to say a few words about the Civil Aviation Directorate. Before the new régime set in, I stated that it needed complete overhauling. The new régime has come in and I do appreciate the fact that the new régime has not been given an opportunity to show its worth. Therefore, we should not be in a hurry either to praise or condemn it. It is, more or less, the same story in regard to the Indian Airlines Corporation. In the first eight months of its existence, they have shown a loss to the tune of something like Rs. 58 lakhs but I do not think that it is the Indian Airlines Corporation that is to blame. In effect there has been no nationalisation; we are supposed to have nationalised but in reality there has been no nationalisation; we have just changed names; instead of I.N.A., or A, B, C, D, it is now Nos. 1, 2, 3, or 4. We have the same number of managers, engineers etc. running the so-called nationalised airlines. On that account alone I do not think it is fair to criticise the Indian Airlines Corporation but I have a right to ask the Government: "Have you done anything to nationalise...

An Hon. Member: No.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Do they mean to nationalise?

An Hon. Member: No.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Do they mean to take any steps? Have they any idea of nationalisation whatever? It seems that Government are not paying heed to this matter; they do not want to offend anyone. It is an obvious thing. If the eight lines are to become one, obviously eight has to become one. Government, somehow or other think that eight must remain eight; only to the outside world we must say that eight is not eight, but it has become one. This seems to be the picture. I for the life of me do not understand why Government did not behave with the companies that have been nationalised in the same way as Government have recently behaved towards others.

I would like to ask my hon. friend over there whether it is a fact or it is not a fact that some months back a Dakota was sold to the Syrian Government for a sum of £ 20,000. I would like to know on what basis the compensation to the internal companies is being worked out ....

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sold by whom?

Shri Jaipal Singh: Sold to Syria by the Government of India for a sum of £ 20,000. My friend may reply later on; he will get his opportunity and he need not be so impatient.

We have a number of Dakotas and they are surplus. I do not think that they are wanted even by our Defence. I do not quite understand why we cannot sell these and get up-to-date aircraft or earn valuable currency so that we can have more modern aircraft. Our policy seems to be a dog-in-the-manger policy. The aircraft is here and you cannot use it. In this particular memorandum, it has been stated that Rs. 160 lakhs has been set apart for the purchase of new aircraft for the night air-mail service. I would like my friends to tell us why they are so particularly anxious to get new aircraft for the night air-mail service only and for nothing else. I do not quite understand why replacement should be restricted to that only. The aircraft that we are using now are fast becoming obsolete. We are having serious accidents and the sooner we replace them the better for the confidence of the people. One hon. friend over there said that the Ministry are 'grave-minded'. I do not see what he meant. I suppose he was polite but let me translate it and put it bluntly. What he meant was that the Ministry were indulging in a massacre of people who travel by air. He said 'grave-minded' and this is the obvious translation of what he intended to say.

There is no doubt whatever that we have our own difficulties in getting new aircraft. I fully appreciate the difficulty of the Ministry as well as the Government. Certain factors have come into the field and we ourselves cannot look straight and think fairly and squarely. There seems to be the general impression in this country that the ordeal is between four engines and two engines. I have nothing to say about this particular ordeal. All that I want to say in this connection is that the choice of the future civil aviation and commercial aircraft of this country should not be left to one individual. I think that Government should see that there is a committee of experts that should decide the question of selection of future aircraft. It should not be left either to the Ministry by itself or even to the Indian Airlines Corporation by itself. The views of the experts of the Defence Ministry, of the Indian Airlines Corporation and everybody else should be obtained so that a decision may be made in the interest of the development of civil aviation in this country. Not only that, the purchases of new aircraft should co-ordinate with the demands of the Defence policy in this country.

Shri Raghubir Sahai (Etah Distt.—North East *cum* Budaun Distt.—East): It is needless to say that I am one of those who hold this Department in very high esteem. I think there could be no two opinions on this matter either in this House or outside in the country with regard to the great public utility of this department. It has got a number of achievements to its credit

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and I will not repeat all those achievements as most of the hon. Members have gone into them. But from the report that was supplied to us this year I find there are some items which made an impression on me. One of them is that during the year under review the number of public complaints received by the Department was far less than what were received in the year before.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Because they get no redress.

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a reflection on the workers whom you "claim" to represent.

Shri Raghubir Sahai: In 1952 the number of complaints was 4,14,673 and this year the number given in the report is 3,97,490 which means that the number is less by about 17,183. This is a matter of great satisfaction.

Another thing that interested me was that telegrams in Devanagari are being very much encouraged. The number of telegrams booked in Devanagari, as given in the report, in 1953 was 18,939. During the last year the number was only 7,801 which means that the increase has been more than double. This, again, is an achievement for which the Department should be legitimately proud.

Then during the year under review the telegraph and telephone systems of Jammu and Kashmir were taken over by the Indian Union. That is a matter on which the entire country should be congratulated, because this matter had been hanging fire for a very long time. I suppose the people in Jammu and Kashmir will now begin to feel what a great change has been brought about in the supervision and in the running of this Department.

Another decision on which I congratulate the Communications Ministry is that with regard to those postal employees who accidentally die while on duty the heads of the departments concerned would be authorised to spend to the extent of fifty rupees on their funeral expenses. Sir, the amount that has been so authorised may not be very great, but this would create a feeling of loyalty and faithfulness in a very large number of the employees that work in this Department.

Another good feature that has impressed me is that all the district headquarters would be given trunk telephone connections. I hope that this facility would be given to all the *tehsil* headquarters and *thana* headquarters so far as telegraph connections are concerned

While I have mentioned a number of the achievements that were reported during the year under review, I feel that there is a very large scope still for greater improvement in the Department. For instance, with regard to the Small Savings Scheme, during the Budget the hon. the Finance Minister invited our attention to the slight improvement that has been made in the Small Savings Scheme. It is a very beneficial scheme which should be encouraged not only in the cities but in the rural areas also. I am glad to note that in the Community Project areas more post offices would be opened. That is a very good thing. But I would suggest that along with that, facilities by which money could be deposited in Savings Banks should also be available in the Community Project areas. Because it is our experience that the money earned by the people out of their hard toil is often taken away by dacoits or robbers in the villages. If these villages could be taught the lesson of thrift and the lesson of depositing their earnings in Savings Banks I think it would be better for them as well as for the finances of the country. So my suggestion would be that more post offices with Savings Bank facilities should be opened in the Community Project areas.

With regard to the expansion of telegraph facilities my submission would be that all the *tehsil* headquarters and *thana* headquarters should have these facilities and there should be no question of loss incurred by the Department. You do not take that into consideration in having trunk

telephone connections in district headquarters. Why should you not do the same thing in opening telegraph connections in *tehsil* and *thana* headquarters?

One regrettable feature which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister—and it should be taken in the spirit in which it is made and not in the spirit that I am making any carping criticism—is this. I have gone through the Audit Report of 1952 in which the Audit authorities have brought to notice that the number of defalcations, frauds, embezzlements etc. has gone very high during the year 1952. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that in order to maintain the high reputation of the Department it is necessary that very great attention should be paid with regard to this matter. The Audit Report says that the total amount involved in the cases of defalcation or loss of public money was the highest so far recorded and also exceeded the corresponding figure of the previous years by nearly Rs. 2 lakhs. The increase was particularly noticeable in respect of losses under Savings Bank frauds. The losses under money orders were Rs. 73,000 and insured article frauds and losses were Rs. 1 lakh and a little more. During the year under report the number of cases in respect of Savings Bank frauds has doubled, and the amounts involved in money order and Savings Bank frauds were nearly twice and three times the previous years' figures respectively. As compared with the average of the preceding years also the frauds under these two types of transactions showed disquieting increase.

That is what the Audit Report says and I would like that special notice should be taken of these remarks by the hon. Minister and he should adopt all possible means to see that such cases of frauds and embezzlements become less and less in the future years.

I would bring my remarks to a close. Before I do so I submit that the buildings of post offices in many places are in a deplorable condition. I know the anxiety of the Department and know they are doing all that they can. But still if they hasten the pace it will be better for the Department as well as for the country.

I support the Demands.

Shri Laskar (Cachar-Lushai Hills—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, I am very much grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me to speak a few words on these Demands. I stand here to support the Demands.

At the very outset I must say that India has been making rapid progress in the field of Civil Aviation since the achievement of independence and the nationalisation of the air-transport industry will surely put it on a sound and economic basis.

After the Partition, Assam was cut off from the rest of the country in the matter of communication by road, river and rail, and the air service is a boon to Assam people to overcome some of the difficulties. Post offices have been opened in many villages in the country, but I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that the common people would get some relief if the price of post card be reduced from 3 pice to 2 pice. In a parliamentary democracy, we know that constant hammerings yield some results, but in a House of 500 we are only 13 Members from Assam and therefore our hammer is very light. If we strike hard, we are afraid that on the other hand it may strike against our own forehead. Therefore, we fully depend on the sympathy of the hon. Minister and keep ourselves engaged in putting forth our demands and grievances to draw the attention of the Government. Today I shall confine myself to placing some of the demands of the most neglected area—that is my area—the District of Cachar and Lushai Hills in the neglected State of Assam.

The hon. Minister was kind enough to visit Silchar town in the Cachar District during his Assam tour in January last. He is well aware of the

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strategic and geographical position of the area. We are dependent on Calcutta for our food supply, consumer goods, building materials and other things. If we are to go to any other part of the country, then we have to go *via* Calcutta and Calcutta is the only market for the produce of the area, such as oranges, pine apples and other things. Therefore, we are to keep in touch with Calcutta by going and coming every now and then. Before Partition, the usual route by rail from our place to Calcutta was through Pakistan and by that route one could reach Calcutta in 24 hours by passing only one night in the train, whereas at present one has to pass three full nights in the train by Assam Link. Therefore, the common people are tempted to travel by air—(only two and a half hours' journey) from our place to Calcutta—to avoid the troublesome train journey. The circumstances have compelled the people of our place to travel by air, but the air fare is too high for the general public and if the fare is reduced at least from Rs. 80 to Rs. 60, then the people will get some relief. Moreover, this will attract more passengers to travel by air and there will be more income and profit. I think the question of loss cannot, therefore, arise.

Students are given some concessions, that is 25 per cent. less than the actual fare. I think the Assam students should be given concessions of half the actual fare so that the poor students also can go by air to avoid the four days' troublesome journey by rail.

The economy of the hill and plain people has been severely shattered by partition of the country. The perishable things like oranges, pine apples, etc. the only products of Cachar and Lushai Hills are sometimes lifted by air at a concessional freight. Even in spite of that, these things cannot command the pre-partition market at Calcutta and the producers are not getting fair price for their products. Further concession in freight rates should be given to save the growers and traders as well from these trying conditions. The fare and freight structure should be revised from a humanitarian point of view and not from a commercial outlook.

There is a persistent demand for having telegraph offices in certain places in the District of Cachar, especially at all police stations. For instance, Sonaimukh bazar adjacent to Sonai police station was gutted twice last year causing loss of lakhs, and nothing could be done to save it for want of telegraph facilities. Therefore I request the hon. Minister to provide facilities by opening telegraph offices at Sonaimukh, Katigara, Bhagabazar, Ganganagar, Kabuganj, Joypur-Rajabazar, Bhangarpar and Jalalpur, and thus save the people from walking ten to twenty miles to reach telegraph office in times of need.

There is also a long-standing demand for having a public telephone exchange at Kariganj sub-divisional headquarters. I request the hon. Minister to provide these facilities without any delay

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very vital point in connection with the recruitment and employment of staff in the Assam Circle of Posts and Telegraphs Department. In this connection there is a lot of criticism in the local papers. The President of the Union of Posts and Telegraphs workers, Cachar-Assam, has raised his protest against the decision of the Department. I come to learn from all these reports that the Assam Circle of Posts and Telegraphs has been divided into four divisions, and for each division some regional languages have been prescribed. No one speaking a language other than the languages assigned to the division is eligible for employment in that division. If that be the fact, then this will affect us greatly and I feel it my duty to bring it to the notice of the Government.

As I said before, the Assam Circle is divided into four divisions (1) Upper Assam Division—consisting of Dibrugarh and Sibsagar Districts with

regional languages, Assamese and Hindi, (2) Central Assam—consisting of Darrang and Nowgong Districts with regional languages, Assamese and Hindi, (3) Lower Assam Division—consisting of Goalpara, Kamrup, Garo Hills and K. & J. Hills Districts with regional languages, Assamese, Hindi, Khasi and Garo, and (4) Cachar Division—consisting of Cachar, Lushai Hills, North Cachar and Mikir Hills Districts, and Manipur and Tripura States with regional languages, Assamese, Hindi, Manipuri, Lushai and Bengali. Assamese and Hindi languages are common in all divisions and other regional languages are assigned to this or that division only. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether according to the action taken, the Khasi and Garo-speaking people living in the Cachar Division are not eligible for employment in that Division, or Bengali, Manipuri and Mizo-speaking people residing permanently as natives or domiciles in Lower Assam Division are not entitled to stand as candidates for employment in the Lower Assam Division? If that be the fact, then the Cachar Division is greatly affected and it is surely an injustice to the people of Cachar Division with a population of more than 25 lakhs. For instance, let me take the case of Bengali-speaking people in the State of Assam. The hon. Minister, I believe, knows well that a good number of Bengali people live as natives or domiciles in all plain districts of Assam State. The number is great in Goalpara, Nowgong and Kamrup Districts. The displaced persons are scattered all over Assam. They are almost all East Bengal refugees and naturally, they are Bengalis, to make it more clear, let me cite another example. If a Bengali lives permanently as a native or a domicile in the district of Goalpara in Assam Lower Division, according to this circular, he is not eligible to get an employment in Goalpara district because Bengali is not accepted as a regional language in the Lower Assam Division. By doing so, I feel that he is deprived of his fundamental rights as provided in article 16 of the Constitution. I ask if it is a fact or not, and I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The fundamental right is not a fact.

Shri Laskar: If a Bengali of Goalpara District wants to get a job in that region by suppressing his own language, let him do so. But, by the acceptance of Bengali language as his own, if he is thrust on the Cachar Division for an employment in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, only on the ground that Bengali language is accepted as a regional language in Cachar Division, then, I must protest against it. Because, thereby, lakhs of Bangalees now living in different districts of Assam other than those in the Cachar Division, will be thrust on the Cachar Division for employment in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. This will surely go against the interests of the people whether Bengalis, Hindustanis, Manipuris, Assamese and Mizos in the Cachar Division.

I welcome recruitment of staff on regional basis. I also welcome reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the recruitment. I also welcome that every one should be eligible for appointment without any discrimination of race or language, etc., in the Division. But, I oppose unnecessary imposition of lakhs of people on the Cachar Division for the purpose of getting employment, people who naturally do not belong to this area. So far as I know, there are no restrictions or discriminations in the services under the State Government of Assam. Therefore, my humble submission to the hon. Minister is to look into this matter and do justice to the people living in the Cachar Division.

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा (पटना—पूर्व): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कम्यूनिकेशन विभाग पर बोलने का आज मेरा पहला

[श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा]

मौका है और इस मौके पर मैं यह चाहती थी कि विरोधी दल के भाइयों के भाषणों से जो हमारे मंत्री महोदय की पीठ पर घाव किये जांय उन पर मरहम लगा सकूं। पर मुझे बड़ा अफसोस है कि उनके इस घाव पर मैं मरहम नहीं लगाऊंगी बल्कि उस पर कुछ नमक ही छिड़कूंगी।

श्री जगजीवन राम : घाव है ही नहीं।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : यह तो अपनी अपनी समझ की बात है। मैं तो यह महसूस करती हूं कि घाव है। लेकिन हमारी कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की यही बदकिस्मती है कि वह यही नहीं समझती कि घाव हैं और इसी लिये उस पर असर नहीं होता है।

मैं दो साल से यह महसूस कर रही हूं कि कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्ट्री का इंजन पीछे लग गया है और इस लिये इसकी गाड़ी पीछे की तरफ चल रही है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : हवाई जहाज है, गाड़ी नहीं।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : मुद्दत से इस विभाग की अपनी एक शान थी और जब हम लोग सरकारी विभागों के बारे में बात चीत किया करते थे तो कम्युनिकेशन और टेलीग्राफ विभाग का उदाहरण दिया करते थे कि देखिये एक वह भी सरकारी विभाग है और किस तरह से अच्छा काम करता जा रहा है। पर आज मुझे अफसोस है कि उस के काम में कुछ ढीलापन आ गया है। वह चुस्ती नहीं वह फुरती नहीं है। ताज्जुब यही है कि कर्मचारी वही हैं, अफसर ऊपर से नीचे तक वही हैं और काम भी वही है लेकिन वह लगन नहीं है वह काम करने का उत्साह नहीं है।

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री (जिला आजमगढ़—पूर्व व जिला बलिया—पश्चिम): कहीं आपको मुगालता तो नहीं है ?

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : क्यों ऐसी बात है मेरी समझ में नहीं आती। कर्मचारियों से ही आप पूछिये। मैं इस बात को दावे के साथ इस लिये कहती हूं कि मुझे पोस्ट और टेलीग्राफ के कर्मचारियों के साथ कुछ दिनों तक काम करने का मौका मिला है और मैं यह तो नहीं कह सकती कि मैंने उनकी नब्ज को पहचाना है, लेकिन यह मैं जरूर दावे के साथ कह सकती हूं कि मैंने उनकी नब्ज को टटोलने की कोशिश की है। मैं ने एक से लेकर सौ तक, सभी आदमियों के मुंह से यही बात सुनी है कि हम लोगों के साथ, कर्मचारियों के साथ, जो मिनिस्ट्री का बर्ताव है वह बहुत ठंढा पड़ गया है।

Lala Achint Ram (Hissar): Not very correct.

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : मैं आपको इसकी मिसालें दूंगी। बहुत से मेम्बरों ने कहा और अभी हमारे एक साहब ने कहा कि "इट इज नाट वैरी करैक्ट"। मैं उन से कहती हूं कि पहले जो मैं कहूं उस को सुन लें, देख लें, फिर ऐसी बातें कहने का दुस्साहस करें। आप कहते हैं कि हमारे पास पैसों की कमी है। आज हमारे देश में इतने सारे काम करने को पड़े हैं, लेकिन हमारे पास पैसों की कमी है। लेकिन सन १९४८-४९ से लेकर सन् १९५२-५३ तक के आंकड़ों को आप देख लीजिये। आपको मालूम होगा कि कोई साल नहीं बचा है कि जिस में बीस पचीस लाख रुपये लैप्स न हुये हों। मकान बनाने के लिये जो रुपया रखा गया है उसमें से इतना रुपया लैप्स हुआ है। मैं आप को आंकड़े दे कर बताती हूं। सन् १९४८-४९ में जो मकान बनाने के लिये अमाउंट

दिया गया था उस में लैप्स हुआ है २४ लाख ५० हजार, १९४९-५० में जो अमाउंट लैप्स हुआ है वह है २७ लाख १४ हजार, १९५०-५१ में जो अमाउंट लैप्स हुआ है वह है ४९ लाख ३० हजार, १९५१-५२ में ३६ लाख १७ हजार रुपया लैप्स हुआ और १९५२-५३ में जो अमाउंट लैप्स हुआ है वह है ३४ लाख ७१ हजार। इतना रुपया लैप्स हुआ है ।

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): What percentages?

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : पिछले साल जब बजट पर बहस हो रही थी तो हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने बड़े जोर से उस वक्त भाषण दिया था और चूंकि मेरा P. & T. यूनियन से कुछ ताल्लुक है मैंने उस भाषण को ग़ौर से सुना था। और मुझ से भी ज्यादा गौर से उस भाषण को उन यूनियन वालों ने सुना था कि जिनका मन मिनिस्टर साहब की बातों को सुनने के लिये बहुत उतावला था। इस लिये जो मिनिस्टर साहब ने बात कही थी वह मैं यहां दोहराना चाहती हूं। उन्होंने अपनी बजट स्पीच में कहा था :

> "Now I will come to some other grievances. It is no use blaming the department. There are certain obvious difficulties. It is not financial difficulty; but there are others as well. Money was provided in the previous year's Budget and it lapsed. I have been trying and I may succeed in seeing that the money provided for in the Budget is utilised during the course of the year and does not lapse. That is all I can say."

अगर एक साल या दो साल में ऐसी बातें हों तो मिनिस्टर साहब को एक्सक्यूज हो सकता है, यह कहने का कि हमें बहुत डिफिकल्टीज हैं, बहुत सी परेशानियां हैं और कठिनाइयां हैं और हम उस काम को नहीं कर सकते। लेकिन यह एक बार नहीं, बराबर सन् १९४७ से १९५४ तक यही हो रहा है, रुपया इतना लैप्स हो रहा है और फिर भी मिनिस्टर साहब इस बात को कहें कि हम यह बात नहीं कर सकते, चूंकि हमारे सामने बहुत सारी दिक्कतें और मुश्किलें हैं। अगर हम इन मुश्किलों को संभाल नहीं सकते तो फिर हमारे काम करने का क्या फायदा है, जरा मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूं ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि जब आप यह जान रहे हैं कि सी० पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० हमें मदद नहीं देता, जब एक दो वर्ष में आप ने देख लिया कि आप को मदद मिलनी मुश्किल है, उन से मदद नहीं मिल सकती तो इतना बड़ा आप का पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ का डिपार्टमेंट है, आप अपने इंजीनियर क्यों नहीं रख लेते। सिविल इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट आप खोलें। पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ के अन्दर जो क्वार्टर वगैरह बनाने हैं, अगर इसको पूरा करने में दिक्कत होती है तो आप अपना इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट अलग खोल लें। लोगों को मकान रहने को चाहिये। आप के दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट आप का काम नहीं कर सकते हैं, तो क्या इस लिये आप का काम नहीं होगा ? दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट तो कभी आप का काम नहीं करेंगे अगर आप खुद उसमें पूरी दिलचस्पी नहीं लेंगे। दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट के ऊपर हर काम की जिम्मेदारी दे देना, यह तो मैं नहीं समझती कि बहुत मुनासिब बात है ।

अब जो बात मुझे कहनी है उस के बारे में मैंने कुछ लिखा पढ़ी भी की थी। मुझे हमेशा इन के डिपार्टमेंट से आश्वासन दिया गया था कि यह बात हो जायगी। लेकिन हमारे यनियन के कुछ लोग मिनिस्टर साहब से मिलने गये तो उन्होंने यह बात नहीं कही। यह बात है एडिशनल इंस्पैक्टर्स की बहाली

[श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा]

के बारे में । यहां पर जो कोई कम्युनिकेशन्स मिनिस्ट्री के बारे में जानते हैं, जो लोग उस से कुछ ताल्लुक रखते हैं, उन्हें मालूम होगा कि कम्युनिकेशन्स मिनिस्ट्री में पोस्ट और टैलीग्राफ के अन्दर एक इंस्पैक्टर की पोस्ट होती है जिनको पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर्स कहते हैं । उनका इम्तहान होता है और उस में जो पास होते हैं, उत्तीर्ण होते हैं, उनकी बहाली पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर की हैसियत से की जाती है । शायद आप को मालूम नहीं कि मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से इस पर बहुत जोर दिया जा रहा है कि एडिशनल पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर्स की बहाली की जाय । अभी मेरे पास पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर्स के आंकड़े हैं, आप को या हाउस को मैं दिखा सकती हूं । सारे हिन्दुस्तान में अभी जो पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर्स हैं, अभी जो उत्तीर्ण हो चुके हैं परीक्षा में वही बहाल नहीं किये गये हैं । जिस काम के लिये वह परीक्षा में बैठे, इम्तहान पास किया, अभी जब वही खाली बैठे हैं तो फिर एडिशनल पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर्स की पोस्ट कैसे क्रियेट की जा रही है । वह पोस्ट पता नहीं क्यों बनाई जा रही है । यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई ।

5 P.M.

श्री जगजीवन राम : समझने में देर लगेगी ।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : हम जानते हैं कि सरकारी महकमों में एफीसियेन्सी बढ़ाने के सवालों पर गौर किया जा रहा है । यह दावा किया जाता है कि हमारे सरकारी महकमों में अच्छे से अच्छे आदमी जो साबित हों वह लिये जांय । इसी लिये कम्पीटीटिव एग्जामिनेशन रखा गया है । छोटी से छोटी नौकरियों से लेकर बड़ी से बड़ी नौकरियों से भी अब चाहे वह हमारे यहां की सरकार हो या स्टेट की सरकार हो, सब यही चाहती हैं कि कम्पीटीटिव एग्जामिनेशन हों । यह तो ठीक ही है । लेकिन अब उस तरीके को बदल कर सीधे department द्वारा आदमियों को भरती करना, यही बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती है और यही मैं आप से पूछना चाहती हूं । अभी मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि समझ में यह बात नहीं आ सकती, लेकिन वाकई उनको छोड़कर और किसी की समझ में यह बात नहीं आ सकती है कि जब कम्पीटीटिव एग्जामिनेशन में पास होकर जो इंस्पेक्टर्स अपनी नौकरी पर नहीं जा सके, तो फिर क्या वजह है कि आप ने यह एडीशनल पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर्स की पोस्ट क्रियेट की हैं । और क्यों इनकी बहाली डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से होगी, कम्पीटीटिव एग्जामिनेशन के जरिये नहीं । मैं पूछती हूं कि अगर मिनिस्टर साहब कहते हैं कि मुझे समझ नहीं है तो मैं दावे के साथ कहती हूं कि वह बतावें कि इस में उनको क्या कहना है और इसके बारे में उन्हें क्या समझना है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : समझ नहीं है ।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : मेरे दोस्त कह रहे हैं कि समझ नहीं है । यह एक इतनी जरा सी बात है और फिर भी उनकी समझ में नहीं आती तो इस की वजह यह है कि उनके अन्दर दर्द नहीं है । डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मैं यह सवाल इस लिये पूछ रही हूं क्योंकि मुझे उनके लिये दर्द है । वह पढ़े लिखे कर्मचारी हैं जिन्होंने जिन्दगी भर मेहनत की है । और जो मेहनत करते हैं, वही इसको महसूस भी कर सकते हैं । मेरे दोस्त तो मिनिस्टर साहब की बोली में

अपनी बोली मिलाने में ग शान समझते हैं। मैं इसको शान नहीं समझती हूं, क्योंकि मेरे दिल में उनके लिये दर्द है, मैं उनकी मुश्किलें समझती हूं। अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बारें में हमारे डिपार्टमेंट के बड़े बड़े लोगों ने यहां तक कि जो इस के डाइरेक्टर जनरल साहब हैं, उन्होंने पटना युनियन के सेक्रेटरी से बात चीत की थी और डाइरेक्टर जनरल साहब ने और दूसरे लोगों ने, यानी पी० एम० जी० वगैरह ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि इस बात पर गौर किया जायेगा। लेकिन अब इसको क्यों अपनाया जा रहा है? इसके अन्दर भी कोई गहरा राज मालूम होता है।

इस सिलसिले में एक बात मुझे और कहनी है कि जो इंस्पैक्टर्स इम्तहान पास करते हैं, उन के बारे में भी एक सी पालिसी नहीं रही है आज तक। सन् १९३९ में इन की पालिसी यह थी कि जो परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण हो जायेंगे वह कर्मचारी पोस्टल इंस्पैक्टर बहाल कर लिये जायेंगे। अगर उन में से कुछ बचे तो वह दूसरे साल बहाल किये जायेंगे। इसके बारे में डाइरेक्टर जनरल की एक चिट्ठी है जिसको मैं यहां पढ़कर सुना देती हूं। डाइरेक्टर जनरल साहब ने ७-९-४६ को यह लिखा था :

"It is thought that those officials who qualified in any of the Inspectors' examination but were not selected for want of adequate vacancies are, by virtue of the fact that they studied for the examination and passed it, better suited academically for appointment in short temporary vacancies. It is decided, therefore that such men should be given preference over all others and decided that officiating appointment should be given to such officials only."

१९३९ में यह पालिसी थी। उस के बाद १९४२ में उन का जो तरीका था परीक्षा का वह कम्पीटीटिव हो गया। खैर मुझे इससे एतराज नहीं है कि वह कम्पीटीटिव हो गया। उसके बाद फिर इम्तहान का यह तरीका कर दिया गया कि जितने परीक्षार्थी उत्तीर्ण होंगे उन के लिये एक बोर्ड बैठेगी और वह बोर्ड ही उन का सिलैक्शन करेगा। उस के साथ वाइवा वोसी टैस्ट भी होगा। उस में जो भी इंस्पैक्टर्स पास करेंगे वह लिये जायेंगे, तो इसका मतलब यह है कि जो पहले पास किये हुये हैं उन के लिये अब कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है। जिन्होंने दस साल पहले इम्तहान पास किया अब उनसे कहा जाता है कि जो नये रिक्रूट आये हैं उन के साथ कम्पीटीटिव एग्जामिनेशन में बैठिये। जो लोग पहिले इम्ताहन में उत्तीर्ण हो गये थे, लेकिन जगह न होने से उनकी बहाली नहीं हुई थी, उनको अब फिर परीक्षा में बैठने को कहा जाता है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि फिर से परीक्षा लेने का क्या उद्देश्य है। अगर डिपार्टमेंट चाहता है तो वह साफ साफ कहे कि हमारे पास इतनी वैकेंसीज हैं, इतने लोगों को लेंगे, बाकी को नहीं लेंगे। यह डिपार्टमेंट कह सकता है। पर हमेशा लोगों को परीक्षा देने के लिये मजबूर किया जाता है और उसके बाद जब बहाली का सवाल आता है तो वह हटा दिये जाते हैं और इन बेचारों को फिर फिर इसी मुसीबत का सामना करना पड़ता है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम सब हाउस के लोग और आप भी कभी स्कूल कालिज में पढ़े होंगे और हम बखूबी महसूस कर सकते

[श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा]

हैं कि एक परीक्षार्थी की क्या हालत होती है जब वह इम्तहान देने जाता है, रात दिन उसको उसी की फिक्र लगी रहती है। उसकी आंखों से नींद भाग जाती है और हर समय उसे इम्तहान की चिन्ता सताये रहती है। आपही सोचें यह कहां तक उचित है कि हम उनकी दिक्कतों को बढ़ायें ।

इसके बाद मैं आप से दो चार मिनट और लेना चाहूंगी ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : तीन मिनट मैं आप को और दे रहा हूं ।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : एयर लाइन्स कारपोरेशन के बारे में जिस समय कि यहां बिल पेश किया गया था, मैंने ऊपर से नीचे तक, एड़ी से लेकर चोटी तक मिनिस्टर साहब का साथ दिया था, उनके हर एक शब्द का समर्थन किया था . . .

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह (हजारीबाग पश्चिम) : ग़लत किया था ।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : पर अभी कुछ ही दिन हुये हमारे एक मेम्बर भाई जो पीछे बैठते हैं उन्होंने एक बार सवाल किया था तो उसके जवाब में हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने बताया कि रेवेन्यू का आंकड़ा २०४·६२ लाख और एक्सपेंडीचर २३५.६ लाख है और उन्होंने मान लिया कि कारपोरेशन को लौस हो रहा है पर उन्होंने कहा कि यह कोई खास बात नहीं, यह डेफिसिट मामूली चीज है और यह हर देश में होता है जहां बड़ी बड़ी नेशनलाइज्ड इंडस्ट्रीज होती हैं । मुझे मिनिस्टर साहब की इस बात से एतराज नहीं है कि वह कहते हैं कि घाटा हो रहा है पर मुझे इस बात से जरूर एतराज है कि आपका पूरा ध्यान इस घाटे को मिटाने की ओर नहीं है । आप का पूरा ध्यान तो आपसी लड़ाई झगड़ों को मिटाने पर नहीं बल्कि उनको कुरेदने के लिये है और मुझे इस बात से एतराज है । अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो प्रेस कटिंग मैं पढ़ने जा रही हूं वह इस बात को साबित करता है और उसको किसी ने रेफ्यूट भी नहीं किया है :

"Mr. B. C. Mukerjee, Ex-Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation, is handing over charge to Mr. Shankar Prasad tomorrow, and is proceeding on two months' leave. He is not likely to return to the post and, according to reports, is already being considered for a Secretary-ship in the Government of India.

According to lobby reports, the Chairman of the IAC and the Ministry of Communications were not pulling on well together and Mr. Mukerjee was even contemplating to resign the post. He had however, asked for leave on grounds of health,

It is understood that the differences between the IAC and the Ministry of Communications related mainly to certain high grade posts in the administrative set up of the Corporation. For instance, even though the Corporation has been in being since October 1, the statutory appointment of a General Manager has not been filled.

It is learnt that an informal offer for this post was made to Mr. K. J. Bhore, who is at present Director-General of Civil Aviation in Pakistan. It is understood that there has been opposition to Mr. Bhore's appointment from highly influencial non-official directors of the IAC."

यह रिपोर्ट वैसे तो बहुत मासूम भाषा में लिखी गई है, परन्तु उसके अन्दर से जो आवाज आ रही है उसको तो सभी

समझ रहे होंगे । इसका मतलब है कि उसके अन्दर आपसी बहुत लड़ाई झगड़ा और कशमकश है और चार छै महीने एयरलाइन्स कारपोरेशन ने आपसी लड़ाई झगड़ों में बिता दिये हैं, किसी को निकालने और किसी को बहाल करने में बिता दिये हैं और यही वजह है कि हमारा ध्यान उस ओर नहीं गया है कि उसको किस प्रकार अच्छी तरह चलाया जाय । हमारे डिप्टी मिनिस्टर कहते हैं कि ऐसा घाटा तो होता ही रहता है । अगर ऐसा सोचते हैं तो ठीक है, अच्छा ही है . . . .

श्री राज बहादुर : यह आखिरी बात नहीं कही थी, आप ऐसा कह कर बड़ा जुल्म कर रहीं हैं ।

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): May I ask from which paper this report is read out? I want to know whether this report emanates from a paper which constantly vilifies the Prime Minister of India.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: This is a report of the *Indian Express* and the Communications Ministry had not the guts to refute this report.

श्री राज बहादुर : अपनी बात साफ करने के लिये मैं जरूर कहूंगा कि मैंने यह कभी नहीं कहा कि ऐसा घाटा बहुत अच्छी बात है, मेरे लिये किसी मेम्बर महोदय का कहना मेरे साथ बड़ा जुल्म है ।

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब को एतराज हो रहा है क्योंकि उनकी यह समझ में शायद नहीं आता कि यह एक बोलने का तर्ज है । मेरा अभिप्राय तो उनकी इस बात पर कटाक्ष करना है जो उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसी कम्पनियों के लिये घाटा होना स्वाभाविक है । यह तो केवल मेरा उन पर कटाक्ष था और मैं तो कहूंगी कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब में थोड़ा ह्यूमर का सेंस होना चाहिये, और उनको इसको एप्रिशियेट करना चाहिये था । इतना उतावला होने की जरूरत नहीं थी । मैं तो उनको बतलाना चाहती थी कि वह महसूस करें कि सात लाख रुपये का घाटा जो हर महीने हो रहा है उसके लिये उन्हें कोई फिक्र नहीं है कि यह जो घाटा हो रहा है उसको कैसे पूरा किया जाय । मैं चाहती हूं कि हमारे मंत्री महोदय इस तरफ ध्यान दें क्योंकि देश में यह पहला एक्सपेरीमेंट राष्ट्रीयकरण का है और अगर इसी तरह हालत बनी रही और घाटा होता रहा तो सरकार की और देश के लोगों की हिम्मत भी नहीं पड़ेगी कि आगे और भी कल और कारखानों को नेशनेलाइज किया जाय । इस सम्बन्ध में आप की बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है क्योंकि इस राष्ट्रीयकरण के आप अग्रदूत बने हैं और आपकी सफलता और असफलता पर इस देश के राष्ट्रीयकरण का भविष्य निर्भर है । आपके लिये यह कह देना कि घाटा तो होता ही है ठीक नहीं है । आपको देखना चाहिये कि यह घाटा क्यों हो रहा है और उसको कैसे पूरा किया जा सकता है । आप पर बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है और इस लिये मेरी अपील है कि इस लड़ाई झगड़े को बन्द करके इस काम को कामयाब बनाइये । इस सम्बन्ध में हमारे सामने इंगलैंड की लेबर मिनिस्ट्री की मिसाल मौजूद है, उन्होंने जब अपने यहां कारखानों को नेशनेलाइज किया तो पहले ही साल में उन्होंने नफा करके दिखलाया था । मैं चाहती हूं कि हमारे मंत्री महोदय भी उसके लिये प्रयत्नशील हों । बस मैं और अधिक न कह कर आपका शुक्रिया अदा करती हूं कि आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया और हाउस के मेम्बरों का शुक्रिया अदा करती हूं कि उन्होंने मेरी बातों को सुना ।

Shri Muniswamy (Tindivanum): I would like to confine myself to the

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long-standing grievances of the P. & T. employees.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now that an hon. Member has started speaking, there should be more speeches in the benches!

Shri Joachim Alva: I tender my apology to the hon. Member, if I had made a mistake.

Shri Muniswamy: It is surprising to see how our hon. Minister, who has realised the difficulties of the postal employees and appreciated their sufferings, still keeps quiet without anything to redress their grievances. That is really a surprise to me.

Speaking about the postmen and the class IV employees, I feel that it is proper that I quote what was said by a leading politician of our country. It runs as follows:

> "The postmen are a set of honest people. They treasure the letters as their own. I know from my younger days how honest the postmen are. Money is delivered safely with receipts, and there has been no instance of losing it. In this respect, the postmen are better than postmasters. There may be some cases against postmasters..."

So said Shri Rajagopalachari, the Chief Minister of Madras. Unfortunately, or fortunately he does not happen to be the Minister of Communications here. This is the tribute he has given to the postmen. I should like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that such postmen are treated like this.

Speaking about the scales of pay of postmen and class IV staff, I am ashamed to say that pay scales fixed for them are Rs. 35—1—50, and Rs. 30—1/2—35. Repeated representations have been made to the hon. Minister to raise these scales of pay. This is a very simple demand that has been made by the All-India Postmen's Union. A postman who joins service with a starting pay of Rs. 35 gets a pension of only Rs. 16—8—0 when he retires from service. On the other hand, in foreign countries, the postmen and class IV staff get something like Rs. 800 or 900. I am making a comparison with foreign countries, because last year when I made a reference to the extra-departmental staff, in the course of the budget debate, the hon. Minister was kind enough to make a reference to the foreign postal departments and said, no rent is paid to extra-departmental people in foreign countries. I should like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the pension which a class IV servant, and a postman get is of the order of Rs. 11—8—0 and Rs. 16—8—0 respectively.

I should like to make it clear in this connection that the postmen's associations have represented on many occasions that a postman could do the work of a postal clerk, but a clerk cannot do the work of a postman. Yet this point has been ignored always. A request has been made that at least a time scale should be fixed, in view of the fact that many of the postmen are asked to do a good deal of work of the postal clerks on many occasions. I ask whether these things have been brought to the notice of the hon. Ministers or not. Many of the minor difficulties which lead to the confusion and suffering of the postal employees could be very easily solved if only the hon. Ministers had the mind to do it.

As I have already pointed out on a previous occasion, at least in the case of people drawing below Rs. 100, the whole of the dearness allowance should be merged with pay, so that at the time of retirement, they will get a pension equal to their starting pay. A clerk who gets an initial pay of Rs. 60 at the time of entering service, gets also a pension of Rs. 60 at the time of retirement. But a class IV servant and a postman get a pension of Rs. 11-8-0 and Rs. 16-8-0 only respectively. How could they get on with this small amount? It is a very simple demand that they have made, and it could be very easily met by the hon. Ministers, if only they have a mind to do it.

In the strike demand made in 1946, it was demanded that fifty per cent. of the posts of clerks should be reserved for the postmen. Have the Department fulfilled this demand? Certainly not. When questions were asked, it was stated that qualified people from among the postmen were not available. Reservation means that fifty per cent. of the posts should be given to the people who are coming from the postmen staff. When it is said that a certain number of posts should be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, it means that those posts will be given for the Scheduled Castes people. Likewise, if fifty per cent. of the posts are reserved for the postmen, those posts must be given to the postmen only. I do not know why this has not been done. When I put questions on the floor of this House, the hon. Minister stated that qualified, and educated people were not available from among postmen. As a matter of fact, many of the items of work done by a postal clerk, such as money order work, or window delivery work, could be easily done by postmen. And yet, only recently, many of the postmen who have acted as clerks for many years, have been thrown out, while attempts have been made to bring in an outsider whenever there is a vacancy.

I am told there is a proposal to recruit assistant inspectors on the basis of an open competition, and thus throw open those posts to outsiders. I am afraid there will be a great agitation in the country, if this proposal is put into effect. Why do you want to recruit assistant inspectors from among outsiders? Does it mean that you do not get people in the Department itself? If you are going to do this, what will be the avenue of promotion for a postal clerk? You will only be inviting trouble to the Communications Ministry and the Posts and Telegraphs Department by putting this proposal into effect.

I would like to say a word about confirmation tests. Many of the postmen who have acted as clerks for more than five or six years have not been confirmed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not been confirmed as clerks or as postmen?

Shri Muniswamy: They are permanent postmen, they have been promoted as clerks and they have worked as clerks for more than six or seven years, and yet they have not been confirmed and they are not getting their increments, because they have not been able to pass the confirmation tests. While postmen who have acted as clerks have been confirmed in the Travancore-Cochin and Hyderabad States, in the Madras State, however, this has not been done. I would request the hon. Minister to give serious consideration to this, After all, these are all very simple demands made by the postal employees.

Now I come to outstation allowances. This matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the two hon. Ministers, on more than one occasion, on the floor of this House. But what is the use? Nothing has been done. There is a place called Satyamangalam in Coimbatore District. The postman there has to walk 120 miles in ten days, *i.e.*, in the whole month, he has to walk 360 miles, he has to climb up hills 3600 feet high etc. This is how he lifts himself up. The hon. Minister has often stated, we are working for the lifting of the down-trodden. But this is how these postmen are lifting themselves up.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): He is high up in the air.

Shri Muniswamy: These postmen who are away for more than twenty-seven days in a month get a monthly outstation allowance of only Rs. 1-5-0.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For the whole month?

Shri Muniswamy: Yes, for the whole month. Out of thirty days in a month, he remains only for three days in his house, and for twenty-seven days, he remains away from his place, climbing

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the Nilgris Hills, and walking a distance of about 360 miles in all. He is given a monthly outstation allowance of only Rs. 1-5-0.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): One anna per day!

Shri Muniswamy: They call it outstation allowance. It has been repeated by the hon. Minister on many occasions. This is the way how things are going on.

Another thing is about the holiday allowance for the postmen and class IV staff. Postmen and class IV staff work during holidays. Only two categories of people, the packers and the postmen, are given holiday allowance, but not the other people. Why should there be this differentiation? When the class IV staff and postmen work in the post office on holidays, why should not they also be given this allowance? These are some of the inconsistencies, Sir, which I should like to bring to the notice of the Minister.

Then I come to the supply of uniforms. The postmen were previously supplied with turbans. Now turbans have been taken away and they have been given caps. (*Interruptions*). Representations were made many times that the caps could not protect their heads because they had to walk in the hot sun. We find that turban is supplied to Sikh postmen. Why should you make this differentiation in the case of people in the South? Here in Delhi during winter you supply them clothes. It is not at all uniform. They cannot be called uniforms because they are not uniforms at all. What happens in Madras in the Corporation is this. I know it as a matter of fact. They give them the clothes and Rs. 6 for stitching. Here what happens is that they supply the cloth and they put it on auction and the tailor comes and takes it on auction, at the rate of 6 pies per cap, six annas for suits and three annas for coat. You can imagine how he can stitch a cap for 6 pies and how it will fit on the head! (*Interruptions.*) I regret very much to say all these things. These are some of the very ordinary simple things which could be easily looked into and solved by the Ministry. The demands of the postmen and class IV staff are very simple and the matter can be easily solved by the Ministry if they have the mind to redress their grievances.

Then I come to the supply of umbrellas. I am told in Nagercoil, south of Tamilnad, they are supplying one umbrella for five postmen! (*Interruptions*). I do not know how they invent such ideas.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): Mahabharata come true!

Shri Muniswamy: Umbrellas are supplied at places where there is a rain of more than 30 inches. Perhaps, according to their idea, cards, covers and postal articles could be destroyed only by a rain of more than 30 inches and not less. I do not know how this anomaly has come about.

It is also my request as the Vice-President of the State Union that some washing allowance at least should be given to the postal staff. Regarding uniforms, a representation was made by the mail motor service employees. They have not been supplied uniforms at all. I do not know whether this has come to the notice of the Minister. Many a time when irregularities and inconsistencies are brought to the notice of the Minister, whenever we put questions about them, the reply is that they are 'under consideration'. Are we to take it that they are really under consideration of the Ministry or whether it was not brought to the notice of the Ministry at all? Because these are all very simple demands which could very easily be met.

The next point is about medical relief for the class IV officials. I am glad I have learnt from the hon. Minister that they are going to give some medical relief to this staff.

Another thing is regarding the restoration of the PTO concession. We

have been repeatedly telling them about this. It is after all a matter of 'adjustment' and it can be restored.

I want to make a mention about the employment exchanges. The employment exchange does not come into the picture in the case of postmen and also postal clerks because they have to pass a competitive examination. Only in the case of the class IV staff, they send up names. Why should it be? The employment exchanges do not help at all. It has been repeatedly said that employment exchanges are of no use at all. A man registers himself and even after five or six years he does not get any post at all. I am afraid some people will not be called even just before they reach the age of retirement, or after thirty years.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: When they retired in the next world.

Shri Muniswamy: Another thing I want to bring to the notice of the Minister is about the Villupuram Junction R.M.S. It is very very important. It is the most important junction of Tamilnad. I have been to that place many times. There is the R.M.S. office which has an accommodation of 450 square feet and 14 to 20 people are working there and hundreds of packages are lying on the platform. There is no space; there is no accommodation. I have also represented the matter to the railway authorities. The Communications Ministry has not taken any steps at all. At the end of the platform, there is wide space. If the Ministry takes it up immediately and writes to the Railway Ministry, it can construct a building there so that that office could be accommodated there and the packages need not be lying on the platform. According to their rules, if there are 14 employees, the area of the office must be some 800 or 900 square feet. But here there are 14 to 19 people working in the same room with a much less space with all the hundreds of packages lying outside on the platform. Therefore, I earnestly request the hon. Minister to write to the Railway Ministry immediately and see that a building is erected at the end of the platform where there is enough space.

Then, Sir, I want to mention about the postal signallers attached to the P. & T. Department. They are doing signalling work. The postal staff are given 16 days' holidays, but the telegraph staff are given only 12 days. These postal signallers are also attached to the Postal Department. So what about the 4 days which they are losing? Why not you pay compensation to them. A committee was appointed. But nothing was done. It recommended Rs. 5. The only thing that we do is to appoint Tribunals, Committees and High-power Commissions. But nothing is done. Why should the postal signallers lose 4 days. They must be paid compensation for this loss.

Shri Raj Bahadur: From the trend of the debate, it seems to be obvious that so far as the efficiency of the working of the P. & T. and other departments under the Ministry of Communications is concerned, very little has been said by way of criticism. More or less, we can divide the criticism and the discussion in the House so far into three categories.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Normally I expect hon. Members who were anxious to take part in the debate and have spoken to continue to remain in the House. I do not know how to avoid their going out. But if I had known in advance by telepathy that they were not going to stay on, I would not have called them.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: They speak and go out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. I won't call them in the next debate.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Does it apply to Ministers also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Something has been said about the difficulties that this Department faces on account of the financial system that prevails on

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

account of the CPWD. Something has been said about the lack of extension of P. & T. facilities in certain areas. Much has been said about the grievances of workers. Sir, I must confess to a feeling that while certain Members on the opposite side were speaking I felt as if I was facing some meeting with Union Workers. I was glad because they had nothing to say so far as efficiency was concerned. So far as efficiency is concerned, I think we are all agreed that our workers work very well and in spite of the criticism here and there about laxity "the so-called laxity" in the efficiency of the working of the department we are all agreed that our workers have stood by us and have done us well.

Now, Sir, I would take up one by one, within the limited time at my disposal, certain important points that have been made out. To begin with, I will take the question of the extra-departmental employees and the so-called meagre allowances given to them. It is well known that we have got to extend postal facilities more especially in the rural areas and we cannot do it unless we find workers who can do this work part-time. It is not full time work for a wholetime postmaster or a postman in the rural post offices. So, if we bear in mind the one principle which is so often advocated, namely that of "equal pay for equal work", we shall have to admit that it will be very inequitable to pay an extra-departmental postmaster in the rural post offices the same scale of salary or emoluments as to the postmaster who works in a town or any other departmental office. While the former has to work merely for one or two hours a day on an average, the latter is occupied for eight hours. When it offends the principle of equal wages for equal work, then the demand that the scale should be brought on a par with the departmental scales becomes untenable. It also puts a sort of brake on the speed and the progress in the expansion of postal facilities to rural areas.

Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal-West Cuttack): But the postman has to work much more; he delivers mails etc.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am talking about extra-departmental people.

So, those Members of the House who have been advocating the principle of equal wages for equal work will realise that there is a very feeble case so far as this demand is concerned.

Something has been said by one of the Members opposite about the verification of the character of candidates, whether they are members, or associated with members, of the Communist party or not. He has made a grievance of that. He said, 'why should it be about the Communist party alone; why should it be limited to that party and why this enquiry not be extended to other parties also?' In all humility and with all the force of emphasis I can command, I say, Sir, that no other political party in the country tries to meddle with the loyalties of the workers (*Interruption*). It is necessary that we should keep our workers in the department free from the stigma of having any associations with any political party whatsoever.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is why you want the Congress people to do this work?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I hope Members opposite will be patient. We have been listening patiently to whatever they have been saying.

Then, about the separation of finance. We definitely feel that the present financial system, in certain cases, causes delays. We work under a parliamentary system, we work under a democratic system and, as such, we have to take the greatest precaution in regard to the checks and counter-checks for all financial expenditure, and proper scrutiny and sanction for this is always indispensible; otherwise, the democratic structure will ultimately fail. Some reference has been made

to the Railway finances and it is said that the Railway finances have been kept separate. We know the provisions of article 112 which lay down clearly that the finances and the accounting of the Railways are a part and parcel of the receipts and expenditure of the Government of India. The whole revenues and expenditure of the accounting thereof are one and indivisible and thus whatever revenue and expenditure fall within the ambit of the Railway Budget, are shown to be included in the Central Budget also. As such, the term 'separation of finances' in the sense that the Railway finances are completely independent of the Central Budget, is a misnomer or a mis-description of the whole position. Even about the Railway finances, we know that they have got three Funds; one is the Depreciation Reserve Fund, the second is the Revenue Reserve Fund and the third is the Development Fund. In the P. & T. also, we have got the Depreciation Reserve Fund, but we do not have the other two funds, namely, the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Development Fund. It may be said that whereas the Railway Ministry does enjoy some account of flexibility in this matter for the purpose of development, but then the question becomes very limited and restricted one, namely whether we should have in the P. & T. also a Development Fund and—I think nobody can deny the necessity that we should have a Development Fund and for that purpose, a proper consideration of the whole subject can be entered into. Another thing is whether they are completely autonomous or completely independent of the Central finances in the matter of arrangements and organisation. In the case of the Railway Board, the Financial Commissioner is technically speaking supposed to be under the control of the Railway Minister, but even so he enjoys certain powers and for certain purposes he is also under the control of the Finance Minister. In the ultimate analysis of things, the Financial Commissioner has also got to see that any proposal, scheme or project which the Railways, as such, want to embark upon are kept within the four corners of the ways and means position of the entire Central Budget. I will not dilate upon this subject, but, I will say that while there is a case for the reconsideration of the whole thing, we cannot say that the separation of finances as such is a possibility in an absolute way.

I will take up certain other points which were raised by Mr. Joshi.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I put a question about separation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is no difference of opinion. I have simply explained the position.

I will say something about the points raised by Shri Joshi. He said that in Bombay only 25 post offices have been proposed to be opened while in other circles there are more. But, in the previous years, Bombay has fared very well. In 1951-52, in Bombay Circle, 331 post offices were opened and in 1950-51, 156 post offices were opened. So, he should not be surprised if he finds a larger number of post offices to be opened in the following years in other circles; it might be due to the past history and background of certain underdeveloped areas, which were formerly known as Indian States. The postal facilities were not as wide there as were obtaining in the so-called British Indian Provinces". Even so, in regard to Ratnagiri District and other places to which he has invited our attention, we shall bear in mind his suggestions and see where and in which villages or groups of villages post offices can be opened.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Thank you.

Shri Raj Bahadur: He seems to be under a misapprehension about 'nodak' villages. Previously the postman never reached many of the villages in each district or Taluks. The mails were never carried there but now there is not a single village in the country which is not served by a postman. Every village has been included in the beat of one postman or the other.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Sometimes once a week.

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is all right, because for weeks and weeks there may be no letter for that village and it may not be necessary for us to keep a postman for a village for which there are no letters.

Then he said something about raincoats and other things. I will refer to them later on. He also said something about the disparity in the number of supervisory staff of Delhi and Madras post offices. That is a specific matter which can be gone into and examined.

Mr. Raghubir Sahai spoke something about the rising number of frauds. I would like to disabuse his mind and remove some misapprehensions so far as the actual figures are concerned. The total amount of losses involved in respect of frauds in savings banks, money orders and insured articles, all put together, in 1950-51 was Rs. 5,72,000 and in the year 1952-53 it went up to Rs. 6,65,000. In 1951-52 the amount was 5,67,000 only. But, keeping in view the total turnover the percentage of frauds has risen from 0·007 per cent. in 1951-52 and to 0·008 per cent. in 1952-53. In 1950-51 it was ·008 per cent. Of course, there was a tendency upward revealed last but there is nothing to be alarmed about that.

Then Mr. Laskar said something about the necessity of opening telegraph offices in Assam. I may inform him, and he will also be glad to hear that, that the Director-General and the Chief Minister of Assam have, between themselves, drawn up a plan for the extension of telegraph and postal facilities in Assam. He informs me that the Chief Minister was satisfied with the arrangements which are proposed now.

Then the lady Member, Shrimati Sinha said something about the Assistant Inspectors and why this new cadre is going to be evolved. We very well know that the volume of traffic has increased enormously. We also know that the number of post offices has been more than doubled. But the increase in the number of supervisory staff has not been commensurate with the expansion and extension of P. and T. facilities, and so we have got to create supervisory posts. We have to import, as best as we can, fresh blood and also make our proper contribution in the nation's efforts to solve the problem of unemployment. If we have suitable candidates, let them come through competitive examinations and there is no harm in that. Some anxiety was expressed about the chances or the prospects of the clerks who are there already working. I can safely say that those who are eligible to appear at the competitive examinations are free to do so, and when we try to improve the service, we shall have to see that proper supervision of their work is provided for in the system. So far, we have been working with a serious handicap in regard to this particular matter, and if we are going to introduce this new category of inspectors, it is only in that background and with that objective.

Shri Muniswamy has raised questions which are very frequently raised by union representatives at the union meetings. We have taken them up a number of times and he very well knows the difficulties that face the Ministry. He has said something about the scales of pay of postmen and about certain anomalies in pension rules etc. He very well knows that the scales of pay were prescribed by the Central Pay Commission and we cannot effect a change piecemeal for this particular category or class of employees of the Department and leave out the others. Again, he has said that 50 per cent. of posts in the clerical cadre are reserved for postmen, but they are not given those posts. I may tell him that if they pass the Matriculation examination or if they come out successful in a very simple departmental test, they are always welcome and are given the posts. I do not think that he will ask us to appoint them even though they do not qualify and come out successful in the test and prove their efficiency to hold the posts. Even in the case of the

Scheduled Castes and Tribes, they have to satisfy these conditions before being selected as clerks or for other appointments. Mr. Muniswamy has also said that postmen, who have been continuing in service for five or six years, have not been confirmed. I would submit that, if a postman, having functioned as a clerk, is unable to pass the simple confirmation test with the help of books and the experience of his ordinary every-day work, it is surprising how he will be able to contribute to the efficiency of the service. On the one hand, we are sometimes criticised by these friends that the standard of efficiency is going down everywhere.

Shri Muniswamy: The efficiency does not depend upon the test alone. It depends upon his experience in the department. Having served for more than eight years, how can they now be considered as inefficient to be clerks?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Member should realise that their very continuance in service for eight years, was on account of certain considerations which should have weighed upon the officers concerned, who did not want to terminate the services of those people unnecessarily. The officers try to accommodate them as best as they can. If you want us to be rigid with them and terminate their services if they fail in the test, we will do so, but we try and accommodate them as much as possible and some of them have failed thrice or four times in the test and yet they are given more opportunities to appear at the tests than they are entitled to, and even then if they do not pass then there is going to be no compromise in this matter and we have to be strict. Any postman who does not pass in the confirmation test should not be allowed to be confirmed in the interest of efficiency.

Mr. Muniswamy said something about the outstation allowances for certain postmen on duty in Nilgiri Hills. I have got a grievance with him there. He brought the matter officially to me only a couple of days ago, and in fairness to me and to him, he should have allowed me some time to write and obtain a report from the Postmaster-General, Madras or other concerned officers. But now he has referred to this matter here perhaps because he wants to attract not only the gallery but some people outside also and so he has thought it fit to play this game. In reply I can only say that he has tried to draw sweeping general conclusions from solitary or rare examples. There may be a case in Nilgiri Hills which has escaped attention, but Rome was not built in a day. All that I can say is that any anomalies that come to our notice are dealt with and tackled by us as and when they come to our notice. Without anybody asking us, we take action ourselves. I can say that the new system or practice that we are following of having monthly meetings between union representatives and the heads of the respective circles has worked very well. Perhaps if these difficulties had been placed before the Postmaster-General, in any one of such meetings he would have removed them. Maybe that this particular beat to which he was referring is 120 miles for ten days. It comes to 12 miles per day. Six miles going and six miles coming in a day is not much. I wonder where he got the figure of Rs. 1-5-0 per month of outstation allowance. I was surprised at this figure. He has been wrongly briefed, I suppose.

Then he referred to the supply of caps and turbans. He has made it a point of grievance that while Sikhs are allowed turbans, others are not. He wants that turbans should be supplied to all our workers. It is a common experience that many people in the South go bare-headed. We have ourselves seen in the north also that turbans are more often than not placed on their shoulders by the postmen and carried about. Apart from that these turbans were put to other uses...

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): Why go to Madras: we have Sardar Hukam Singh on one side and my hon. friend on the other.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Then he said something about congestion on platforms. We are at one with him about the necessity of improvement and extension of platforms so that there may be more accommodation. But the fact remains that all these things shall take time to be achieved.

Shri Nambiar: What about umbrella?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The necessity of supply of umbrellas would depend upon the quantity of rainfall at a particular place. To say that all the thirty inches of rain falls in one single day or one single hour is beyond my imagination. If it falls on the hon. Member that is all right. But in all my life I do not know of a single day when thirty inches of rain would have fallen in one day.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: He was talking of Chirapunji.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have done, Sir.

श्री भागवत झा आजाद (पूर्निया व संथाल परगना) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, यों तो मैं धन्यवाद देने की परिपाटी में विश्वास नहीं करता हूं क्योंकि मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार यदि कोई अच्छे कार्य करती है तो उस के लिए यह करना उसका कर्त्तव्य है । यह अवश्य है कि यदि कोई त्रुटियां हों तो उन की ओर ध्यान दिलाते हुए उन को सुधारने के सुझाव बतायें जिस से कि उन में सुधार हो सके, लेकिन फिर भी सद्गुणों और कार्यों को हमें संसद् के सामने रखना चाहिये । इस दृष्टि से जब मैं पोस्ट एंड टैलिग्राफ डिपार्टमेंट के कार्यों पर नजर डालता हूं तो मैं समझता हूं कि ऐसी कोई भी बात नहीं है कि जिस को ले कर हम इस पर वह प्रहार करें कि जो दूसरे माननीय सदस्यों ने किया है ।

डिफेंस की मांगों पर बोलते हुए मैं ने यह सुझाव आप के सामने रखा था कि हमारे देश की रक्षा के लिये हम को सैकिंड लाइन आफ डिफेंस की आवश्यकता है । उसी आवश्यकता के आधार पर मैं आज यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस देश के पोस्ट और टैलिग्राफ डिपार्टमेंट ने और यातायात विभाग ने यहां जो सब से पहला और उच्चतम कार्य किया वह किया यहां के हवाई जहाज का राष्ट्रीयकरण ।जब देश पर आक्रमण होता है तो सब से पहले जो कार्य मुल्क में करना पड़ता है वह है हवाई जहाज का कार्य । हवाई जहाज के कार्य में जो मदद मिल सकती है वह हमारे सिविल एविएशन विभाग की तरफ़ से ही मिल सकती है और उस के हवाई जहाजों को ही हम डिफेंस के लिये परिणत कर सकते हैं । मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात का ध्यान रखेंगे कि जो अब हमारा प्लान चल रहा है, सिविल एविएशन में, उस को इस रूप में चलायेंगे कि जब भी हमें आवश्यकता पड़े तो हम सैकिंड लाइन आफ डिफेंस के रूप में अपने इस यातायात विभाग के हवाई जहाजों को ले सकें ।

मैं अपने मिनिस्टर साहब को इसके लिये धन्यवाद देता हूं कि यह राष्ट्रीयकरण का कार्य उन्होंने सबसे पहले किया । अभी इस प्रश्न पर बोलते हुए एक माननीय सदस्या ने हाउस में कहा कि यह बड़ी गलत बात है कि इतने दिन होने के बावजूद भी इसमें इतना बड़ा डेफ़िसिट हो गया है । मैं उनको बतलाऊं कि वह मेरा ही प्रश्न था जिसके उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री ने बतलाया था कि इस तरह की डेफ़िसिट इतने बड़े राष्ट्रीय उद्योग में साधारण सी बात है । यह देश का पहला एक्सपेरीमेंट है और उसमें घाटा होना स्वाभाविक है और तिस पर वह घाटा इतना बड़ा नहीं है कि जिसके लिये हम सब इतने घबड़ा जायें और इसलिये अगर घाटे के लिये ही मंत्री महोदय को कहा जाता है कि मैं उनके घाव पर मरहम नहीं लगाऊंगी बल्कि नमक लगाऊंगी, तो मुझे इस पर आश्चर्य

और दुःख होता है । एक सदस्या महोदया ने जो यह कहा कि मैं माननीय मंत्री के घाव पर नमक छिड़कूंगी, तो मुझे बरबस कवि का एक शेर याद आगया जो इसी मौक़े के लिये मानो लिखा गया था :

नमक छिड़को, नमक छिड़को, मजा इसमें भी आता है ।

क़स्म ले लो नहीं आदत, मेरे जख्मों को मरहम की।

मैं समझता हूं कि यह आदत सरकार को ही है कि नमक भी उनको मदद करता है । अब मुझे इस सम्बन्ध में और कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कहना है । मैं सिविल एवियेशन विभाग के बारे में कुछ और अर्ज करना चाहता हूं ।

यह विभाग जो अभी बढ़ाया जा रहा है इस कार्य में बहुत सावधानता की आवश्यकता है । आज हम देखते हैं कि हमारे इर्द गिर्द पड़ौसी राष्ट्र अपनी प्रतिरक्षा पर बहुत बड़ी २ रक़में खर्च कर रहे हैं । आपको मालूम है कि हमारे पड़ौसी देश पाकिस्तान को यू० एस० ए० की सहायता उपलब्ध हो रही है, हमारे लिये यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि अपने सिविल एवियेशन विभाग में इस तरह से व्यवस्था करें और प्लान करें कि यदि आवश्यकता पड़े तो हम अपने सारे यातायात को, हवाई जहाजों को डिफेंस में लगा सकें और मैं इस बात पर ज़ोर डालना चाहता हूं और मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं । जहां तक राष्ट्रीयकरण का सवाल है, मैं विश्वासपूर्वक कह सकता हूं कि इस ११ महीने के अर्से में कोई ऐसी बात नहीं हुई है कि जिसकी वजह से हम यह कह सकें कि हमें कोई घबड़ाने या परेशान होने की आवश्यकता है ।

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

इसके बाद मैं पोस्ट और टेलीग्राफ के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूं । इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं कि हाल के वर्षों में इस विभाग द्वारा अपनी दो हज़ार आबादी पर डाकखाने खोलने की स्कीम को पूरा करने के हेतु कुछ डाकखाने खोले गये हैं या खोलने का विचार किया जा रहा है । मैं शुरू में ही अर्ज़ कर दूं कि मैं ग्रुप विलेजेज़ में पोस्ट आफ़िसेज़ खोलने के लिये मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद नहीं दूंगा । मैं तो उनको उस दिन दिल खोल कर धन्यवाद दूंगा जिस दिन देश के हर एक गांव में मेल जाया करेगी । इस प्लान को हम आसानी से चला सकते हैं । हम जानते हैं कि हर जिले में तहसीलें हैं और थाने हैं और वह थाने भी कुछ हल्कों में बटे हुए हैं । अगर पोस्ट एन्ड टेलीग्राफ डिपार्टमेंट ऐसा प्रबन्ध करे कि उस थाने के हर एक हलके में वह एक पोस्ट आफ़िस देने का काम करे तो मेरा ख्याल है कि यह काम आसानी से हो सकता है । मिसाल के तौर पर महागामा का थाना ले लीजिये । उसमें ५०, ६० या ७० छोटे २ हलक़े हैं और एक हलक़े में १६, १७ गांव पड़ते हैं, इसमें कोई शक़ नहीं कि अभी आपने पोस्ट आफ़िस खोले हैं लेकिन मेरा कहना है कि अगर पचास हैं तो वहां दस दे कर के कुछ पोस्ट आफ़िसों को हस्तान्तरित करके हम हर एक हल्क को एक पोस्ट आफ़िस दे सकते हैं और हम ऐसा इन्तजाम कर सकते हैं कि हर एक पोस्ट आफ़िस के अन्दर सोलह, सत्तरह गांव पड़ें और मेरी समझ में उसका एरिया ११ स्क्वायर मील से अधिक नहीं होगा । ऐसी हालत में हम हर एक गांव में एक दिन में मेल दे सकते हैं । मेरा ख्याल है कि अगर इस स्कीम को जारी करें तो हम देश के हर एक गांव में उसी दिन मेल दे सकते हैं और जब हम यह कर सकेंगे तब आप सचमुच देश के हर एक नागरिक और इस सभा क हर एक सदस्य के धन्यवाद के पात्र होंगे । इस योजना को चलाने में जहां कत

[श्री भागवत झा आजाद]

आर्थिक प्रश्न का सम्बन्ध है, मैं समझता हूं कि इस स्कीम को कार्यान्वित करने में कोई विशेष कठिनाई नहीं होगी और न कोई असाधारण खर्च बढ़ने वाला है । एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेन्टल एजेन्ट्स के लिये ६०, ६१ रुपये की जरूरत पड़ती है और जहां तक हम लोगों का तजुर्बा है इस ६०, ६१ रुपये में १०, १२ या १३ रुपये से ज्यादा का घाटा नहीं पड़ता है और काम की आवश्यकता को समझते हुए इसकी सहज में पूर्त्ति की जा सकती है । मैं समझता हूं कि इस स्कीम को लागू करने में कोई विशेष आर्थिक कठिनाई नहीं पड़ने वाली है, इस स्कीम को हम आसानी से कार्यान्वित कर सकते हैं ।

इसके बाद मैं माननीय मंत्री का ध्यान बिहार के कुछ विशेष प्रश्नों की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं । यह बात सत्य है कि आपने गांवों की दशा काफी सुधारने का प्रयत्न किया है और कई स्कीम्स भी एनाउन्स की हैं और कहा है कि हमारा ध्येय है कि हर एक थाने में टेलीग्राफ और टेलीफ़ोन की व्यवस्था हो, लेकिन आज तक हम यह तार और टेलीफ़ोन की सुविधा वहां नहीं पहुंचा पाये हैं । इस सिलसिले में बिहार के संथाल परगना की तरफ़ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं जो कि एक बैकवर्ड ज़िला है । गोड्डा में टेलीग्राफ़ आफ़िस है जो कि एक सिरे पर, दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर स्थित है और दूसरा पिरपैंती जो उत्तरी ध्रुव में है, वहां पर टेलीग्राफ़ आफ़िस है, लेकिन इन दोनों के बीच में कोई टेलीग्राफ़ की व्यवस्था नहीं है, कोई लिंक नहीं है, इनके बीच में थाने हैं और महागामा पथरगामा जैसे शहर पड़ते हैं, मेरी मांग है कि आप टेलीग्राफ आफ़िस पथरगामा में खोलिये, महागामा में खोलिये, ईसीपुर में खोलिये और इस तरह गोड्डा से पिरपैंती तक एक टेलीग्राफ़ लाइन हो जायगी इसको हम एक में कनेक्ट कर दें । अगर आप इस तरह का काम करेंगे तो उस भूभाग का हर एक आदमी आपका कृतज्ञ होगा ।

इसके अलावा मेरा मत है कि बिहार में जो पोस्टल डिवीज़न्स हैं उनका पुनः संगठन किया जाय । उदाहरण के लिये कोसी डिवीजन की एक अपनी समस्या है । मुझे उस पर अधिक ज़ोर नहीं डालना है । मेरी गुज़ारिश है कि सहरसा और पूर्णिया को मिलाकर एक अलग डिवीज़न बनाइये । इसी तरह संथाल परगना का एक अलग डिवीज़न बनाइये और उसका हैडक्वार्टर दुमका रखिये । इसको मुंगेर से टेग करना मेरी समझ में गलत है, अगर इसे मिलाना है तो भागलपुर में मिलाइये । अगर संथाल परगना का डिवीज़न स्वयं नहीं मिल सकता है तो भागलपुर से मिलाइये, भागलपुर में हैडक्वार्टर रहने पर विशेष सुविधा रह सकती है ।

अब अन्त में मैं और अधिक न कह कर एक कटु शब्द अपने बिहार के पी० एम० जी० के कहने के लिये बाध्य हूं । वहां का काम किस तरह ग़लत तरीक़े का है उसका मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण दूंगा । मुझे संसद में इस तरह की छोटी सी बात का ज़िक्र करते हुए शर्म महसूस होती है कि मैं सदन का उसे बतला कर समय ले रहा हूं । बात यह है कि कसबा-दूधीचक के पोस्ट आफ़िस का ऐरिया बहुत बड़ा है, काफी गांव उसके अन्दर हैं, पच्चीस गांव उसके अन्दर पड़ते हैं और उसके लिये कुल दो हैंड्स दिये हैं, एक पोस्टमैन और एक पोस्टमास्टर, जो कि काम को देखते हुए बिल्कुल नाकाफ़ी हैं, और उस पोस्ट आफ़िस में वह दो हैंड्स काम को निपटा नहीं सकते, मैं ने यह कठिनाई आपके डिपार्टमेंट के सामने पहले भागलपुर में रक्खी और मैंने एक एक्सट्रा हैंड के लिये लिखा जिसके लिये मुझे यह जवाब मिला :

"It will be considered, very well, all right, thank you."

उसके डेढ़ महीने बाद फिर जब मैंने यहां से लिखा तो पी० एम० जी० ने यह मुझे लिख कर भेज दिया :

"It is being considered. Thank you very much for drawing my personal attention to this matter."

इस प्रश्न के उत्तर के आने के बाद भी पांच महीने हो गये क्या यह शर्म की बात नहीं है कि एक संसद् का सदस्य जिस मामले को आप के पी० एम० जी० के डिपार्टमेंट के सामने रखता है, पांच महीने हो जाने के बाद भी उसका कोई निदान नहीं हो सका ? मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आप अपनी नीति को छोड़ दीजिये, लेकिन आप कहिये तो कि यह हमारे लिये सम्भव नहीं है । अगर आप यह भी नहीं कह सकते हैं तो कैसे काम चल सकता है ? अगर आप की यही नीति रही तो छोटे छोटे प्रश्न भी इस तरह से हल नहीं हो सकते हैं, यह मुझे कहना पड़ता है ।

मैं ने आपके सामने मरड़ो, प्रतापपुर, दिघ्घी–सीमानपुर, सुंडमारा, बसंतराय आदि दो चार पोस्ट आफिसों का मामला भी रखा था, लेकिन इस के लिये भी आप ने कुछ नहीं किया । वहां पर इन्क्वायरी आती है, आप के इन्सपेक्टर जाते हैं और देख आते हैं, लेकिन फिर भी इन के सम्बन्ध में कुछ नहीं किया जाता है । बिहार के पी० एम० जी० के डिपार्टमेंट की नासमझी और इन्डिफरेन्स की नीति से हमें जो हानि उठानी पड़ती है उस की ओर मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । मैं चाहता हूं कि इस मामले में आप कोई कार्रवाई शीघ्र ही करें । मैं समझता हूं कि चूंकि आप हमारी भावना को समझते हैं, इस लिये इन के सम्बन्ध में इतना ही कह देना काफी होगा ?

मैं ने जिन जिन पोस्ट आफिसों का नाम लिया है, उस के लिये कोई इन्क्वायरी नहीं हुई, मैं ने जिन जिन विभागों की ओर आप का ध्यान दिलाया, उन के लिये कुछ नहीं हुआ । मैं ने इस हाउस में एक प्रश्न किया गोड्डा के बारे में । आप के मंत्री महोदय ने कहा था कि यह काम हो गया है, लेकिन मैं इस गोड्डा का ही रहने वाला हूं । आज भी वहां मेल ठीक समय पर नहीं पहुंचती है । इस सदन में सवाल के जवाब में मुझे बतला दिया गया कि वहां पर काम ठीक हो रहा है, मेल जा रही है, लेकिन मुझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि वहां पर आज भी मेल नहीं पहुंच रही है ।

अब मैं आपका अधिक समय नहीं लूंगा और इतना ही कह कर अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं ।

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर उत्तर-पश्चिम) : सभापति जी, अभी डिप्टी मिनिस्टर महोदय ने जो कुछ आप के सामने बातें रक्खी हैं, उन से मुझे सन्तोष नहीं हुआ । अभी एक माननीय सदस्या ने एसिस्टेन्ट इन्स्पेक्टर्स की बहाली के सम्बन्ध में जो जिक्र किया था, उस का जो उत्तर मिला, उस से भी मुझे सन्तोष नहीं हुआ । कुछ दिन पहले मुझे बिहार से एक तार मिला था कि एसिस्टेन्ट इन्सपेक्टर्स की बहाली की जा रही है, लेकिन जो पुराने एसिस्टेन्ट इन्सपेक्टर्स इम्तहान पास कर के बैठे हुए हैं उन को जगह नहीं दी जाती । मेरा हमेशा से यह तरीका रहा है कि जब कभी कोई इस तरह की शिकायत आती है तो मैं उसे हेड आफ दि डिपार्टमेन्ट के पास भेजता हूं, और वहां से जो उत्तर मिलता है, उसी पर सन्तोष करता हूं । मैं ने इस शिकायत को डी० जी० के पास भेजा, उस के बाद खबर आई कि सरकार ने आखिरी फैसला कर लिया है, इस में कुछ भी हो नहीं सकता । उस वक्त मैं ने यह जानकारी हासिल करने की कोशिश की मिनिस्टर साहब

[ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह]

के द्वारा क्या इस की जांच की गई है। मुझे पता चला कि उन्होंने जांच की है और उस के बाद उन्होंने फ़ैसला किया है। मुझे माननीय मंत्री जी में विश्वास है, इस लिये मैं ने इस का पुनः जिक्र नहीं किया और न फिर उन से इस बारे में मैं ने बातें करने की कोशिश की क्योंकि मैं ने समझा कि उन्होंने जो कुछ किया होगा, सोच कर ही किया होगा। मजदूरों का हित उन के दिल में रहता है, वे मजदूरों के सेवक रहे हैं, नेता रहे हैं, उन के शासक रहे हैं, इस लिये उनके हितों को वे जानते हैं। लेकिन इधर कई दिनों से मैं ने देखा कि दूर दूर के प्रान्तों से, दूर दूर के राज्यों से, इसी सवाल को ले कर लोग मेरे पास आ रहे हैं। उनसे बातें करने के बाद मुझे मालूम हुआ कि यह बात बिहार पर ही लागू नहीं है, सिर्फ उसी के साथ ऐसा अन्याय नहीं हुआ है बल्कि देश पर। जिन लोगों ने मुझे यह कहा था, वह मेरे मित्र थे और मैं ने समझा कि मित्रता की भावुकता में बह कर इस मामले को मुझे दूर तक नहीं ले जाना चाहिये। इसी लिये मैं चुप रहा। लेकिन मैं आज माननीय मंत्री से यह कह देना चाहता हूं कि सारे देश में इस के लिये घोर असन्तोष है, घोर क्षोभ है। जब तक आप जो पुराने ट्रेन्ड इन्स्पेक्टर्स हैं उन को इन्स्पेक्टर बना देते हैं, तब तक आप का सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ बढ़ाना मुझे तनिक भी न्यायसंगत नहीं मालूम होता। यह ठीक बात है, कि सुपरवाईजरी स्टाफ कम है, इन्स्पेक्टर्स कम हैं। आप इन्स्पेक्टरों को जरूर बहाल कीजिये। आप अनएम्पलायमेन्ट का सवाल हल करना चाहते हैं, शौक से हल कीजिये। अनएम्पलायमेन्ट का सवाल बहुत कुछ हल हो सकता है, लेकिन जो इन्स्पेक्टर्स बैठे हुए हैं उन को आप जगह दीजिये और उन की जगहें जो खाली हों, उन पर दूसरों को लीजिये। इस तरह से अनएम्प्लायमेन्ट कम हो सकती है, इन्स्पेक्टर्स आप के पास कम हैं, तो आप अपने स्टाफ में से लीजिये आप को सुपर्वाइजरी स्टाफ की जरूरत है, तो इस तरह से उस में कमी तो नहीं होती। इस लिये मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आप ने इस संबन्ध में जो दलील दी है वह बिल्कुल लचर है और मुझे युक्तिसंगत नहीं मालूम होती मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह करूंगा कि देश में कर्मचारियों के बीच में, जनता में, माननीय सदस्यों में, इस सम्बन्ध में जो भाव हैं, उन का ख्याल कर के वे पुनः इस बात पर विचार करें। मैं समझता हूं कि इस तरह के कर्मचारी बहुत ज्यादा नहीं होंगे जिन के लिये उन को न्याय करने की जरूरत पड़ेगी।

6 P.M.

एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेन्टल एजेन्ट्स के सम्बन्ध में हमारे राज बहादुर जी ने अभी कहा है कि "ईक्वल पे फार ईक्वल वर्क" का सिद्धान्त रक्खा है। वह कहते हैं कि इन लोगों को एक दो घंटे काम करना पड़ता है, लेकिन मैं इस बात को साफ तौर से कहना चाहता हूं कि एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेन्टल एजेन्ट के सम्बन्ध में अफसरों से मैं ने पूछा था। उन्होंने कहा कम से कम पांच घंटे उन लोगों को काम करना पड़ता है। मुझे यह आत बतलाई गई थी। एक या दो घंटे की बात बिल्कुल गलत है।

श्री राज बहादुर : पांच घंटे तक का लफ्ज है :

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : हां, पांच घंटे तक। लेकिन जहां पांच घंटे तक कहा जाता है, वहां यह मिनिमम होता है। मैं ने उन से 'पांच घंटे तक' के माने पूछे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि उस से कम नहीं। पूरे पांच घंटे। अगर मिनिस्टर साहब यह कहें कि थोड़ा सा काम करने के बाद अर्थात् एक दो घंटे काम करने के बाद वे लोग स्कल में काम कर सकत

हैं तो बीस रुपये में उन का काम चल जाता है। दिहात में हो सकता है लेकिन साथ साथ एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेन्टल पोस्ट आफ़िस शहरों में भी काम कर रहे हैं। शहरों में कोई भी आदमी बीस रुपये में नहीं मिलेगा खास तौर पर उस समय जब कि उन को ज्यादा देर तक काम करना पड़ेगा। इस लिये शहरों के लिये कम से कम आप ऐसा इन्तजाम कीजिये कि जहां आप ई० डी० ए० रक्खें वहां उनको उतने पैसे दें जितने कि मिनिमम वेज के मुताबिक देने चाहियें। जब हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब लेबर में थे तो उन्होंने ट्रिब्यूनल से फैसला करवाया था कि कम से कम मिनिमम वेज सब को क्या मिलना चाहिये। इन लोगों को भी आप कम से कम उतना दें।

दूसरी बात जो ई० डी० ए० के बारे में है वह भी मैं कह देना चाहता हूं। चुनाव के सिलसिले में जब मैं देहात में घूम रहा था तो कुछ लोगों ने सड़क बनवाने के सम्बन्ध में मुझ से कहा कि आप इस के लिये कोशिश क्यों नहीं करते। मैं ने कहा, भाई जहां हम जा रहे हैं, पार्लियामेंट में वहां इस से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है, मैं क्या कर सकता हूं? एक ई० डी० ए० आये और उन्होंने कहा कि आपको हम लोगों से तो सरोकार होगा, इस लिये हमारी बात आप वहां जा कर कहियेगा। मैं ने कहा कि मैं चुन लिया जाऊंगा तो मेरे पास खत लिखना, मैं देखूंगा कि मैं क्या कर सकता हूं। मैं ने उनको आश्वासन दिया था। चूंकि हमारे माननीय मंत्री जगजीवन राम इस विभाग में हैं, इसलिये मैं समझता हूं कि उनको इन्साफ जरूर मिलेगा। उन्होंने मुझे कुछ नहीं लिखा, लेकिन मैं ने देखा कि सन् १९३२ में एक सर्कुलर हुआ, सन् १९४८ में उसको फिर दोहराया गया, उस में बतलाया गया है कि ई० डी० ए० में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को पहले पांच पोआयन्ट बाद एक एक पोआयन्ट के लिये एक एक रुपया मिलेगा और वह १५ रुपये तक होगा, लेकिन मिनिमम १० रुपये जरूर होगा। दो वर्ष तक हम कुछ नहीं बोले दो वर्ष बाद हम ने आन्दोलन किया इस के लिये, उसके बाद यह जो मिनिमम १० रुपये डिअरनस था वह दिया गया। लेकिन पोआयन्ट के अनुसार वेतन में वृद्धि की जो बात थी, उस को अब तक कार्य रूप में नहीं लाया गया। मैं समझता हूं कि इस के लिये कुछ पैसे की जरूरत होगी, लेकिन आप ने जो वादा किया है, सर्कुलर भेजा है, जो कई साल पहले का है, उस को पूरा कीजिये। थोड़े पैसे की चिन्ता न कीजिये।

ई० डी० ए० को पांच साल में पोस्टमैन की परीक्षा में शामिल होने का हक दिया जाय ा, ऐसा कहा गया था, लेकिन मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि अब तक ई० डी० ए० वालों को पोस्टमैन की परीक्षा में शामिल नहीं किया गया। उन को क्यों खबर नहीं दी गई। आप इसकी खबर उन लोगों को दीजिये, उन से दर्खास्त लीजिये और उनको परीक्षा में शामिल कीजिये। आप जिस नीति की घोषणा करते हैं, अगर उसको काम में नहीं लाते हैं तो फिर घोषणा करने से फायदा ही क्या है?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has two minutes more.

Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: How many minutes for an hon. Member, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: I am not to be cross-examined here. The time allotted is two minutes more.

Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: May I say Sir, that we were given to understand that 15 minutes is the time. I want to know whether the time has been shortened

Mr. Chairman: There is no question of shortening the time. The hon. Minister desires to speak at 6·15, and Shrimati Renu Chakravartty also wants to speak. Therefrore, I am anxious that the hon. Member should

[Mr. Chairman]

finish by about 8 minutes after 6. He is getting 13 or 14 minutes. It is only a question of one minute. I do not understand how the hon. Member can insist that full 15 minutes should be given. After all, only the first bell has been rung. Why should he feel sorry about it. The second bell has not yet been rung. By the time I ring the second bell, I think he would have taken full 15 minutes.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : अब मैं आपके सामने कुछ सिविल एवियेशन के कर्मचारियों के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूं। उन लोगों ने अपने वेतन के सम्बन्ध में, रहने के सम्बन्ध में, अपने बच्चों की शिक्षा के सम्बन्ध में और अन्य मांगों के सम्बन्ध में एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी की मांग की थी। अभी कुछ दिन पहले हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कलकत्ता में इस बात का आश्वासन दिया था कि उनके बच्चों की पढ़ाई का इन्तजाम होगा, उनके लिये मेडिकल फैसिलिटीज का इन्तजाम होगा लेकिन आज तीन महीने गुजर गये और कुछ भी नहीं हुआ। वे लोग चाहते हैं कि एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बिठाई जाए। उनको उत्तर मिलता है कि पे कमीशन ने जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के कर्मचारियों के लिये फैसला कर दिया है और वही उन पर भी लागू होगा। लेकिन हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब यह भूल जाते हैं कि सन् १९४७ में सिविल एवियेशन विभाग में बहुत थोड़े कर्मचारी थे और इसलिये उनकी तरफ से कोई प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं हुआ था। इसके अलावा उनका जो काम है और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के दूसरे विभागों का जो काम है उसमें बड़ा अन्तर है। उन लोगों की बहुत सी मांगें हैं जिनका आप फैसला नहीं कर रहे हैं। उन मांगों का फैसला बगैर एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी के नहीं हो सकता। आप उनसे इंटरनेशनल स्टेंडर्ड्स के मुआफिक काम लेना चाहते हैं लेकिन वेजेज उतनी नहीं देना चाहते। इसके लिये एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बिठानी चाहिये। पोस्टल एम्पलाईज की मांग है कि पे कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में २८ एनामलीज हैं। उनमें से तीन को तो आपने खत्म कर दिया है लेकिन २५ एनामलीज अभी आपने खत्म नहीं की हैं। इसके लिये वे चाहते हैं कि आप उनको एक ट्रिबुनल दें। पिछली बार प्रोफेसर हीरेन मुकर्जी ने प्रश्न किया था कि यह पब्लिक यूटीलिटी कनसर्न है या कामर्शियल कनसर्न है तो आपने कहा था कि जिस तरह से सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के और कर्मचारियों के साथ व्यवहार होगा वैसा ही उन के साथ भी होगा। लेकिन रेलवे के कर्मचारियों को तो एक ट्रिबुनल मिला हुआ है जिसके सामने वे अपनी बातें रख सकते हैं। तो क्या कारण है कि जब पोस्टल एम्पलाईज एक ट्रिबुनल की मांग करते हैं ताकि उनकी एनामलीज को दूर कर सके तो वह नहीं नियुक्त किया जाता। आप उनके साथ वह कानून क्यों नहीं बरतते जो कि और मजदूरों के लिये है। आप तो बहुत बड़े एम्पलायर हैं और इसलिये आपको तो आदर्श होना चाहिये। आप अपने एम्पलाईज के लिये खुद जज कैसे बन सकते हैं। आप तो मालिक की गद्दी पर बैठे हुये हैं। ऐसी हालत में आपको एक ट्रिबुनल नियुक्त करना चाहिये जो कि उनकी मांगों पर विचार करे।

कुछ दिन पहले एक ग्रेड स्केल बनाया गया था। उसके अनुसार दो ग्रेड बनाये गये थे, एक फर्स्ट और एक सैकिंड डिवीजन। फर्स्ट डिवीजन का ग्रेड ६८ रुपये से १७० रुपये थे और सैकिंड डिवीजन की ५५ रुपये से १३० रुपये तक थी। फर्स्ट डिवीजन का स्केल ८० रुपये से २०० रुपये कर दिया गया और इसी सिलसिले में जो लोग फर्स्ट डिवीजन में थे उन कुल लोगों को सैकिंड डिवीजन में कर दिया गया। पहले फर्स्ट और सैकिंड डिवीजनों का अनुपात ८० और २० का था, पर इस नये कायदे के अनुसार वह ५० और ५० फी सदी कर दिया गया और इस

तरह से जो फर्स्ट डिवीजन में थे उन में से कुछ को सैकिंड डिवीजन में रख दिया गया और जिनको ज्यादा तनख्वाह मिलनी चाहिये थी उनको कम मिलने लगी। आज तक हिन्दुस्तान में और बाहर भी बहुत से ट्रिबुनल बैठे, पे कमीशन भी बैठी, लेकिन ऐसा फैसला आज तक किसी ने नहीं किया कि जो बड़ी ग्रेड में हों उनको छोटी ग्रेड में ला दिया जाय और जिसको ज्यादा तनख्वाह मिलती हो उस को कम कर दी जाये। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की ज्यादती उन के ऊपर हो रही है। यह मामला थोड़े ही आदमियों का है। यह लीव रिजर्व वालों का मामला है जो कि १४ परसेंट हैं। यह फर्स्ट डिवीजन में काम करेंगे लेकिन उनको तनख्वाह मिलेगी सैकिंड डिवीजन की। यह कहां का न्याय है कि वह काम तो ज्यादा जवाबदेही का करें और तनख्वाह उनको नीचे दरजे की दी जाये। ऐसा तो आज तक किसी जज ने या ट्रिबुनल ने फैसला नहीं किया है, हिन्दुस्तान में या किसी और देश में। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब जो कि लेबर मिनिस्टर भी रह चुके हैं, वह इस पर ध्यान दें। उनके सामने ऐसी बातें हो रही हैं यह बड़े खेद की बात है।

श्री गणपति राम (जिला जौनपुर–पूर्व–रक्षित–अनुसूचित जातियां) : चेअरमैन महोदय, मुझे पांच मिनट का समय दिया जाय। बनारस एअरोड्रोम के आसपास के गांव वालों की पांच सात साल से कुछ शिकायतें हैं। उनको मैं आपके सामने पेश करना चाहता हूं।

सभापति महोदय : पांच मिनट मांगने के लिये पहले तो आप पांच मिनट स्पीच देना चाहते हैं। मैं आपको समय देता लेकिन मजबूरी है समय नहीं है। अगर मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को न बुलाऊं तो सारी बहस ही व्यर्थ हो जायेगी। इसलिये मजबूरी है।

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: On a point of....

Mr. Chairman: Yes, what is the point of order?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: It is not a point of order. I am making a respectful submission.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I am calling upon Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I am only making a respectful submission. The other day, I was cut short in my speech...

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I do not want to hear the hon. Member on this point at all. When I have called another hon. Member, he is not within his right to address the Chair and say that he has not been called, or that he has not been given enough time on some other occasion, or that he has not been called by me now.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I do not see why you should object to my speaking. I have already sent in my chit for being called.

Mr. Chairman: Simply because another hon. Member has been called.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Every time I want to speak, this is what happens.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I would just say a few words about the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Civil Aviation Department, because I am afraid that during the whole debate, the entire emphasis has been on the Posts and Telegraphs Department only.

The House has been perturbed to hear that the Indian Airlines Corporation has been incurring such a huge loss. I am afraid the reason for this is the very germs injected into the type of nationalisation that has been effected. Even at the time the Air Corporations Bill was being passed, we tried to show that this type of nationalisation was only going to do

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injustice to the very word 'nationalisation'. The main reason for it was that we pandered to the big business interests in aviation in the country. First and foremost, against the general sentiments expressed in the House, we had two Corporations. I remember what I said on that occasion. I said as follows:

> "Probably the domestic lines might be incurring a good deal of loss. It might be substantial; that will depend upon the policy that is going to be pursued by Government in running them. But in case there will be loss, the international line will be running at a good profit. It is only when we are able to get the two together and balance the one with the other, that the maximum benefit will go to the majority of our people, and that is a thing that should have weighed with Government."

This is exactly what has happened. Even though we have fought occasion after occasion on these issues as my hon. friend Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha has already placed it before the House a little earlier—certain decisions which were absolutely essential for the good running of the Indian Airlines Corporation could not be taken, because it went against the interests of Mr. Tata. To justify it, we find that an unholy haste has been made about making public the losses of the Corporation. Not a year has passed by, and yet we are told that such big losses have been incurred. I have a sneaking idea that this has been made in order to justify the removal of the Chairman—who was of the making of Government and not of ourselves. The real reason for the loss in the Corporation is that there has been no integration, and no nationalisation. I agree with Shri Jaipal Singh that there has been no nationalisation. How is it that even today we are keeping almost every one of the Managers and the Deputy Managers who existed in the various airlines in Delhi? I think that some of them are now called Regional Representatives, some are called Deputy Regional Representatives, and some Resident Representatives. A whole category has been set up in order to find places for these people. Thousands and thousands of rupees are being spent on them. Not only that, they are people who are also having their own business interests in aviation itself. There is the case of Mr. Sodani, who is one of the Deputy Resident Representatives of the former Indian National Airways, and who is also the director of Dalmia Jain Aviation Company. There is Mr. K. K. Roy, another Representative who has some interest in another non-scheduled airline—I think it is called Air Survey. During the debate on the Air Corporations Bill we had repeatedly said that the Chairman also should not be allowed to have any individual or personal interests. But what we find is that a new category of representatives, under various names, has come into existence, just because we had to pander to the big bosses. That is why these losses have occurred. The big business interests have continued to play a large part within the Corporation. That is one of the reasons why Mr. Mukerji had to leave,—not because he was sick. If he were sick he could have been given sick leave. But he had to leave because he could not put the two together, namely the question of integration on the one side, and the pandering to the various interests that were wrangling for big posts within the Corporation on the other.

I am in a great hurry; otherwise I would have gone into details. But I do feel that there should be an inquiry into this to find out why it is that there is no integration even seven or eight months after nationalisation of the airways. We still have duplication of workshops. We have four workshops here in Delhi and yet in Bombay we had one workshop—overhand workshop—which was dealing

with both the Air India International and the Air India Corporation. Now, as soon as nationalisation has taken place, Air India International has been separated from the Indian Airlines Corporation. Mr. Tata has said that he will have nothing to do with the Airlines. He says: 'You go away'. Why have they gone against the decisions of the Technical Committee? That is why I ask the Minister that he should publish the first report of their Technical Committee. Let us see where it is that the mistake lies, where it is that the shoe pinches, why it is that all these things are going on.

Sir, then I would also ask the Minister: what is this question about the General Manager? Why is it that we find that a person like Mr. Bhore, who is well known as a brilliant man in aviation, the man who really built up the Air India International in the initial stages, had to go away? Today it is known as a credit to Mr. Tata, but originally it was Mr. Bhore who built it. When we could have secured him, why is it that we could not get him? Because he was *persona non grata* with Mr. Tata. That is why we have not been able to get him and that is one of the reasons why a man of the status of Mr. Bhore could not be available.

Then there is the question of non-scheduled airlines. We have allowed it in the Bengal-Assam sector, one of the most paying lines. Instead of seeing how our lines, our Indian Airlines Corporation, could take up this freight service and utilise it to the full, we have allowed non-scheduled lines to take over. More and more aircraft are grounded on many occasions and we find that freight has been taken over more and more by the non-scheduled airlines.

The biggest item—this is where the flaw comes—in computing the total loss is the question of aviation fuel. Now here comes the Air Transport Inquiry Report. The Air Transport Inquiry Committee have said:

> "We cannot find out why it is that the price in India should be so much higher than in Australia which is farther away from the source of production. We suggest that Government might like to examine whether there is not any possibility of bringing down the price in India to a level nearer to that obtaining in Australia."

Sir, I remember I had also said that now that the Government were going to undertake nationalisation, we hoped it would be possible to put the screw on those companies who were given so many facilities about refineries and about taking away their profits without any condition. We should at least have a fair deal and they should give us fuel at a lower cost. Even according to the figures given by the Ministers themselves, we find that the prices have gone up. The latest figure of the price for fuel given by Mr. Raj Bahadur was as. 43-9/- per gallon. That was the calculation given to us only about two or three days ago. Now, unless we can put the screw on the oil companies, we will not be able to make up this loss. This is the biggest item of expenditure. As a matter of fact, only recently Egypt had a trade agreement with Roumania and they secured all petroleum products at 16 per cent. cheaper than the world price. For the Indian Airlines this can mean lakhs of rupees of saving. This is one of the biggest items and in 1947, there was a loss of Rs. 37·76 lakhs on account of fuel alone. These are the reasons why the Indian Airlines Corporation still remains such a big loss. It is not that there is any individual to blame but the entire policy of the Government, the policy which allows big business interests still to have a say. I am afraid, Sir, that the Minister has not been able to solve this problem; rather, in many cases, it has been complicated.

Another point I would like to make is the workers' participation in the successful working of the nationalisation. What do we mean by nationalisation? Last year I think Mr. Jagjivan Ram asked, 'does she

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understand what is nationalisation?' As far as we are concerned, one of the biggest aspects of nationalisation is this, that the workers, as a body, are co-sharers in the affairs of the nationalised concern. They have as much right and voice in the working as others have. As a matter of fact, organised labour must be the most important one and which must be heeded if we really want to make nationalisation successful, especially in a highly technical organisation.

Shri Syamanandan Sahaya: That may be "labourisation", not nationalisation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is very essential that we should give some weight to the views of organised labour and talk with them across the table and come to decisions, looking to their grievances, looking to the information they are giving and there only we shall be able to make the Indian Airlines Employees' Union or the people. What is happening here? Mr. Tata has given recognition to a small union of 100 people whereas there are 500 who are within the Indian Airlines Employees' Union or whatever it is called; they have been kept out. I feel the same thing has happened in the case of the nomination of Michael John as representative of labour. I do not think the workers have even seen him.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is quite unfair to name him.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: You can have your say in your reply. I would also like to voice the grievances of the Civil Aviation Department workers—the question of education of their children, the question of transport facilities and other things which the Minister promised to redress still remains. I am afraid that at the pace at which we go, the five years will go and many of the things to which we are looking forward will not be there and the people will not be there to enjoy anything which may come in the future.

I would like to join with my other friends and say that the Civil Aviation Department has expanded and it has become a fine department. Its branches have expanded throughout the count but this has been possible because of the goodwill, the initiative and the efficiency of the workers, even in the most difficult circumstances. They have to work in the areas of Assam, in the far jungles they have to work. When the Pay Commission came into existence, this small department was hardly more than a fledgling. They could not put their views before the Pay Commission. It is essential that the entire question of the Civil Aviation Department should be gone into thoroughly because this is a department on whom rests a great responsibility, the safety of hundreds of lives, and it is essential that they should be willing people, they should be healthy people and they should not live in conditions in which they do live.

I would again like to add my voice to that of Mrs. Sinha who said that they live in terrible conditions and the funds lapse. Every year provision for building is made and still there is no accommodation. There is no budget provision for accommodation even this year for far away areas like Mohanbari, Tezpur, Agartala and other areas. There are only a few places for the officers being built in Agartala. We would like to know what about others. Something has been done in Dum Dum and Santa Cruz. Something should be done for the class IV people also. I would certainly say that they are the people who require provident fund, they are the people who require medical facilities. Shri Jagjivan Ram should not bring into being another Harijan class by not allowing those class IV servants the same facilities as other officers, who can get electricity, who can get better accommodation etc. Let us have an equal deal, a fair deal, if we really want to make this Department worthy of the great trust

and responsibility which is reposed on them.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I must express my gratefulness to the Members of the House for the warm tributes they have paid today to my Ministry and to the officers and staff engaged therein. I join my voice along with theirs in paying my tributes to the officers and staff of the Postal Department, the Civil Aviation Department and the various other wings of my Ministry.

I will start with my friend Mr. Jaipal Singh, whom I do not find in his seat at present.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): That is always the case.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: He stated very vehemently that during the last few years, Civil Aviation has suffered. I wish he were here. The whole Department of Civil Aviation has had a life of only a few years, and he said that, during the past few years, Civil Aviation has gone down. I could not follow what he meant, but if he would care to go through how Civil Aviation has expanded in this country during the last few years, especially after the war, he will see for himself that no one will hesitate in paying tributes to the Directorate of Civil Aviation for the expansion of civil air transport in the country. The achievement has been rather remarkable. He said that there is no discipline. I do not agree with that imputation even for a moment. Our pilots and our engineers, whether engaged in the previous companies or in the Airlines Corporations or in the Directorate of Civil Aviation, have shown a sense of discipline which can hardly be surpassed. Mr. Jaipal Singh is aware more than I am that many of the pilots today engaged in Civil Aviation are ex-army personnel and they came to Civil Aviation with a sense of discipline that they had acquired in the army. It was very unfair to our boys in Civil Aviation when he said that there is no discipline in them. I repudiate the charge with all the emphasis at my command.

Then, Mr. Jaipal Singh came forward with a suggestion—that is his pet suggestion—and that is an obsession, which I am afraid he will not be able to shake off. That obsession is that Civil Aviation should be handed over to Defence. That was the point he raised last year, but I do not propose, to repeat the reply that I gave him then. We have to develop civil aviation and we have to develop it as a strong second line of defence, and that can be better done if civil aviation develops as an independent line apart from the Defence Ministry. There should be the closest possible co-operation between the two and we have it. Whenever occasion arises, discussion at the highest level among the Secretaries of the two Ministries, the Air Vice-Marshal or the Ministers, where necessary, takes place and we have the closest possible co-ordination between the Ministry of Communications and the Defence Ministry. He said that it was due perhaps to the fact that civil aviation was not in the Defence Ministry that a very large number of pilots were produced by the flying clubs and today we have to face an army of unemployed pilots. There is no doubt that there is a large number of unemployed pilots in the country, nearly a hundred or so. Mr. Jaipal Singh happens to be the President of the Delhi Flying Club. Recently, the Silver Jubilee of the Flying Club was celebrated with great eclat and high tributes were paid to the achievement of the Flying Club. Today, what is the position of the Delhi Flying Club? Their main activity remains to be social entertainments.

Sardar Hukam Singh: That is to keep in harmony with the advance in social activities in Delhi!

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, to keep in harmony with the life of Delhi. Was only the Directorate of Civil Aviation responsible for this over-production

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of pilots or were the flying clubs also responsible for it? The whole idea of the encouragement of the flying clubs was to create air-mindedness among our young people and not necessarily that they will make flying as their career. If every person that joins a flying club as a trainee looks forward to making flying as a career, then it will become impossible to run the flying clubs. The whole conception of the flying clubs was to create air-mindedness among the people, only a certain percentage of whom will make flying their career. But the flying clubs in order to get subsidy from the Government went on recruiting trainees indiscriminately even without looking into their educational qualifications. Last year I went into the question as to how best to absorb these unemployed pilots. I was surprised to find that a fair proportion of the unemployed pilots trained by flying clubs do not even possess the minimum basic educational qualifications. A fair proportion of them are not even Matriculates! All these things were done by the flying clubs only with a view to getting larger subsidies from the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation. So, he cannot now very conveniently throw all the blame at the door of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation. He will have to share a portion of that. I think the flying clubs will have to bear the major portion of the blame than the Directorate.

Sir, I have been for the last one year making efforts to find avenues for the absorption of these unemployed pilots. We took up with the Indian Air Force the question as to whether they will be able to absorb some of these pilots in the Air Force. Today I am in a position to announce that during the next one or two months the Indian Airlines Corporation will be able to absorb all the pilots who have got Dakota endorsement.

Then I have taken a second step. Of the nearly one hundred unemployed pilots, about 34 to 37 have got Dakota endorsements; the rest hold 'B' licences. I have a scheme to train the remaining pilots to give them Dakota endorsement, and after they have received their Dakota endorsement to absorb them during the next 15 or 18 months at the most, as soon as vacancies are created in the Indian Airlines Corporation. By staggering the period, I hope to absorb all of them.

We will however have to think for the future. Today Mr. Jaipal Singh said that the Defence Ministry again is coming to the rescue of the flying clubs, because they will be sending N.C.C. boys to the flying clubs for training and the flying clubs will be able to run because they will be getting these N.C.C. boys. Now if the flying clubs have to depend entirely on the subsidy which they get from the Government—either from the Ministry of Defence or from the Ministry of Communications—and they are not to exert themselves, or if they are to exert themselves only for activities other than flying, the future of these flying clubs is really dark.

I have gone through the Report of the Master Committee. We have generally accepted most of the recommendations of that Committee. They made certain recommendations regarding the flying clubs and their future. We have examined them. With certain suitable modifications we have accepted the recommendations of the Master Committee. We have to relate the training of young boys in the flying clubs to the requirement of pilots in the country. Unless we do that the flying clubs will be always in jeopardy. Our requirements will be 25 to 30 pilots a year who can be absorbed in the Indian Airlines Corporation or the Air India International.

If we produce more than 25 or 30 people in a year—people who want to make flying their career—again the question of unemployment will arise.

We will have to so relate the activities of the flying clubs that we will be producing not more than 25 or 30 people for absorption in the air transport line. The rest of them who come to the flying clubs will be either N.C.C. boys or others who do not want to make this as their career. Only on that basis we should be running them. We are examining a scheme of subsidy by which we will be in a position to assure a minimum amount of subsidy by which a flying club can meet all its legitimate and necessary expenditure.

One can understand the bitterness of Mr. Jaipal Singh. The Delhi Flying Club is in a very bad financial condition.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): Has the subsidy gone down?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The subsidy has not gone down. We have been giving subsidy but their expenditure bears no relationship to the subsidy that they can draw and every year and every quarter they want some extra funds over and above the subsidy from the Government....

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Because of cocktail parties!

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): They are flying too fast!

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Perhaps it is his idea that if civil aviation goes to the Ministry of Defence—you know everyone in the country has sympathy for Defence—Defence Ministry may spend any amount. We do not agree with that. Perhaps that is the one thing why he is so insistent about the transfer of the civil aviation to the Defence Ministry.

While dealing with civil aviation, I may deal with a few points that have been raised here before I pass on to the Indian Airlines Corporation. As regards the employees and their demands, I have every sympathy for all their legitimate demands. As everybody in the House is aware the service conditions of all the Central Government employees are governed by the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and the employees in the Civil Aviation Department are as good civil servants as employees in the Central Secretariat; they are also governed by the scales of salaries laid down for different categories of employees of the Central Government. Therefore, when this demand was made that a special enquiry committee should be set up to look into the service conditions of the employees in the Civil Aviation Department, I said there was no occasion for that, no necessity for that. If there are cases of anomalies, we are always prepared to look into them. If there are other questions, I am always prepared to examine them and try to meet them as far as possible.

The question of education of their children was raised. I myself felt when I visited some of the air-ports that their grievance was a genuine one and we will have to find some solution for that. It is difficult to find some solution in case of young children because at most of the air-ports their number is very small and we cannot think of starting schools for them. Where the number is sizeable efforts have been made to get primary schools started. I think after I took up the question, Finance Ministry has agreed that the staff cars or other conveyances that we have got at the airport may be used by the children of the employees for going to the schools or colleges and coming back. And we charge them at a very reduced and concessional rate.

So far as medical facilities to class IV employees are concerned, we have extended them to all class IV employees. These have been extended from today, the 1st of April.

So far as other facilities are concerned, I do not think there is any discrimination between the class IV employees of the Communications Ministry or of the Civil Aviation Department and class IV employees of

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

other Ministries. All the class IV employees of the Central Government are treated uniformly. But I must admit that many things have come to my notice which did not come to my notice even when I was Labour Minister, and I am sometimes surprised as to how much discrimination is maintained even today between class IV employees and other categories of employees. It is there. But that discrimination is not applicable only in the case of the Civil Aviation Department employees but is there uniformly to all class IV employees. I find some questions have been raised about electricity connection in the quarters of class IV employees. Well, that is uniform for all class IV employees, and not only for the Civil Aviation Department employees. I wish we could remove this distinction.

I have just said about medical facilities. Up till now class IV employees were not getting any medical facilities. They will be entitled to them from today. So, there are certain discriminations which we have gradually to eliminate, and, as I said, sometimes some of them come to my notice as a surprise. Only today I was looking into the question of pensions to class IV employees and other officers. The others qualify after ten years' service for pension, whereas class IV employees qualify for pension after twenty years of service. As soon as some of these discriminations come to my notice I take them up. Legitimately it should be the duty of the Ministry of Home Affairs to take up all those questions. But whenever they come to my notice I take up these questions in respect of my employees; and by that way sometimes I succeed in getting those facilities for all class IV employees.

So, as I have said, I have every sympathy with all the legitimate demands of the employees of the Civil Aviation Department, and I assure that I will consider them and try to meet them as far as possible. But I do not see any necessity for setting up a Commission like the Pay Commission to go into the question of the employees of the Civil Aviation Department.

I think I have dealt with the Civil Aviation Department. There are genuine grievances of the workers. Our airports are situated at distant places from the cities and towns, and the employees have genuine difficulties in getting medical facilities or educational facilities for their children. The position of quarters also is not very satisfactory. I will not try to explain away things. The position is far from satisfactory. The number of quarters that are required is a large figure. But we are trying to do our best. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty remarked that "something is being done at Dum Dum". I wish she would have admitted that a magnificent thing is being done at Dum Dum, not "something". At Dum Dum we are developing a very huge colony for the employees of the Civil Aviation Department and I think Civil Aviation Department deserves congratulation for developing that colony. It is not 'something', it is a big thing and gradually we want to take up and provide quarters for employees in far off, distant airports. We have done this in Bombay, we have taken it up at Dum Dum, but I am more concerned with far off places like Bagdogra, Agartala or places like that where it is really very hard upon the employees. We have some sort of phased programme to do this work. The real difficulty is that sometimes our Budget allotments have lapsed and for the last few years I have got the figures, Hon. Members have asked for this information and I have myself supplied the figures as to what was our Budget allotment, what amount has lapsed and in what year: but the fact is that it has lapsed. Last year I knew that and I took up the question with the Central P.W.D. They suggested an experiment. They gave an officer to be attached to my Ministry who works as a liaison officer. If this experiment succeeds, if the construction programme of the Minis-

try makes a progress, then we will work with that liaison officer, and if it does not, we will have to think of some other solution by which we will be in a position to expedite our construction programme. So, I will not say at this stage anything more than that. This is engaging my constant attention and I will try to expedite that.

Then, Sir, before I come to the postal side, I would like, briefly, to come to the Air Corporations. When the lady Member over there started speaking she tried to create an atmosphere in the House as though Lady Nightingale had descended! Should I remind the House as to what is the emblem of nightingale? I think the lady knows it better than I.

An Hon. Member: Please tell us.

Shri Gadgil: Let us have the advantage of knowing it.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Perhaps she may tell you in confidence. She did not disappoint me, but she disappointed the House. She proved to be neither the Lady Nightingale nor nightingale. She was very vehement. She produced some clippings from some papers. I wish she had read the newspapers of the dates previous and subsequent to the date of which the clipping has been produced by her. I wish she at least reads them when she returns from here and perhaps she will get the answer to the question that she has raised, only she must apply her intelligence and try to follow that.

Sir, when the question of personality comes in, it becomes very difficult to discuss matters and the more so when it is the question of our own officers; we do not want to discuss that. The work of integration has not made any progress. I do not blame anybody for that, but it is a fact that the progress that has been made during the last six or seven months has not been satisfactory. I myself wish there had been some more integration, though it is a very difficult work. Where it is a question of employees to the tune of 7,000 or 8,000, where the questions of seniority and juniority are involved, where the question of pay scales are involved, it is not so easy to integrate.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*.]

We have to take all possible precautions to avoid any possible discontent among the employees. That is why I advised the Corporation to set up a Committee with a retired High Court Judge, who also happens to be a retired Member of the Union Public Service Commission, as Chairman. This Services Committee is going into all the questions, salary scales, seniority, juniority etc. I had anticipated that this work will be over within six months. It has taken more time. I did not anticipate it. But, I may assure the House that I am myself not satisfied with these six or seven lines running even after eight months of our taking over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty was not correct when she said that there are four Regional Representatives in Calcutta and two in Delhi. This whole pattern of Regional Representatives has not appeared to be very satisfactory. But, as we took over these various companies as going concerns, we carried all the staff as they were and I had expected when I was piloting that Bill that we will integrate within the next six months. I had anticipated that the work will be finished. But, it has not been done. Still we are running all these lines on the basis of different managers, different staff, all the staff treating themselves as employees of the different lines. This state of affairs is not very satisfactory. I think that during the course of this month, some integration is going to take place. I am confident that this regional and zonal thing will give place to something else during the course of this month.

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

It was said that many of these people have got interest in air transport. I am not aware of that. If specific instances are given...

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I have given two instances.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Two instances were quoted. The Dalmia Jain Airways went into liquidation long before we nationalised. There is no work...

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is a non-schedule line.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not operating. As a matter of fact, none of their aircraft is air-worthy. They went into liquidation sometime before we nationalised. There is no non-schedule operation of Dalmia Jain Airways. As regards Mr. K. K. Roy, I understand, very recently, maybe a month back or so, he has acquired some interest in the Air Survey of India.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: He has left Air Corporation?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: He has not left Air India. Air Survey of India, as you are perhaps aware, mostly engages itself in survey work, not much of any non-schedule operation. This is a very recent thing. I am told that Mr. K. K. Roy—I have not checked it; I have heard some news—has acquired some interest in Air Survey of India. I do not know to what extent. If any other information is given to me that the employees or the staff of the Air Corporations have interests in non-schedule operations, I will go into the matter and look into that, but so far as my information goes, I do not think anybody has got any interest in any of the non-schedule operations.

But, as I said all this staff we are carrying because we have not been able to integrate. As soon as we integrate, perhaps we will find that some of the non-technical staff that we are carrying at present may be surplus to our requirements and we may dispense with them.

She spoke about the report of the Technical Committee as if some secrets are contained in that. The Corporation has not yet received the final report of the Technical Committee, and when the final report of the Technical Committee is received, the Corporation will consider that and they will consider the question whether to publish that, and if they find that it is to be published they will publish it. Government as such is not much concerned with that directly. You know the set-up under the Air Corporations Act.

About the General Manager and again the personalities of Mr. Bhore and Mr. Tata, I will only say that she has based her remarks on some hearsay, and whenever we are briefed by persons who also base their statements on something that they heard from here or there, we are usually likely to make such statements. It sometimes may become unfair to one person or another. The facts are far from what she has stated, but as the question of personalities is involved in this, I do not want to go into details. At present Mr. Bhore is the Director-General of Civil Aviation of the Government of Pakistan. It will be unfair to say anything in this matter.

Again to bring in Mr. Tata and say that Tata has tried to resist, is not all fair. I may say that where I am convinced that I have to do a particular thing I will do that in spite of any obstruction that may be created by anybody.

Then about prices of fuel and aviation spirit. This matter is dealt with by my colleague the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply. But it is a fact that petrol sells cheaper in London than in Rangoon. There is no doubt about that. It sells cheaper in New York than in Iran.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Why so?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is a big question, but it is a fact. Because they

pool the prices, they have a cartel and things like that—that is the very simple explanation of that; because we do not produce aviation fuel. But we have been trying to get fuel at a reasonable rate. So, we will make effort if we can, and I will ask my colleague the Minister of Works Housing and Supply to take up that question.

I have said about these things. I will say only a word about...

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Before the hon. Minister finishes, may I know whether the Government has got any programme for further extension of airways?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no time for the hon. Minister to reply.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have got some programme of linking all the capitals of all the States, bringing them on the air map, and apart from that also important towns. In the second phase of our programme, I may assure my friend Mr. Sinhasan Singh that his home town of Gorakhpur also will be connected.

A word more about Inspectors. The vehemence and heat that was imported into the debate was totally uncalled for. Perhaps the lady Member is not aware that this question of passed but unselected Inspectors which has been hanging fire for the last ten or twelve years was solved and the passed but unselected Inspectors—she may lighten herself—are those who compete but whose marks are below the number required. They are treated as passed. Everybody who secures 45 per cent. is treated as passed, but only such number are selected as there are vacancies, and the remaining are unselected. The Department sympathised with these unselected persons and ordered that in case of temporary vacancies these people should be made to officiate. And when they officiated, they said: "We are passed but unselected, but we have officiated", and I gave them some concession. I said: "All right. I will try to absorb you." Then comes the question, why do you create a new cadre of Assistant Inspectors?

7 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid there can be no more questions now, because the guillotine has to be applied.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah (Golagat-Jorhat): I have to make one submission.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. I am going to apply the guillotine now.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: The hon. Minister has not touched the important matter of Posts and Telegraphs at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members cannot get up like this and start talking, when I am standing. It is now seven o'clock, and I am bound to apply the guillotine. I am not going to budge an inch. I am going to put the Demands to the vote of the House now.

Mr. Debeswar Sarmah: The House has a right to hear from the hon. Minister what the policy of the Department is.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I shall now put to the vote the cut motions relating to the Communications Ministry.

The cut motions were negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shows in the third column of the Order Paper in respect of Demands Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 111, 112 and 113 be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[*The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.*—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND NO. 5—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,43,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND NO. 6—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,64,26,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 7—METEOROLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,01,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND NO. 8—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Over-Communications Service'."

DEMAND NO. 9—AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,04,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND NO. 10—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND NO. 111—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,97,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 112—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 113—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,77,96,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Communications'."

The House then adjourned till two of the Clock on Friday, the 2nd April, 1954.